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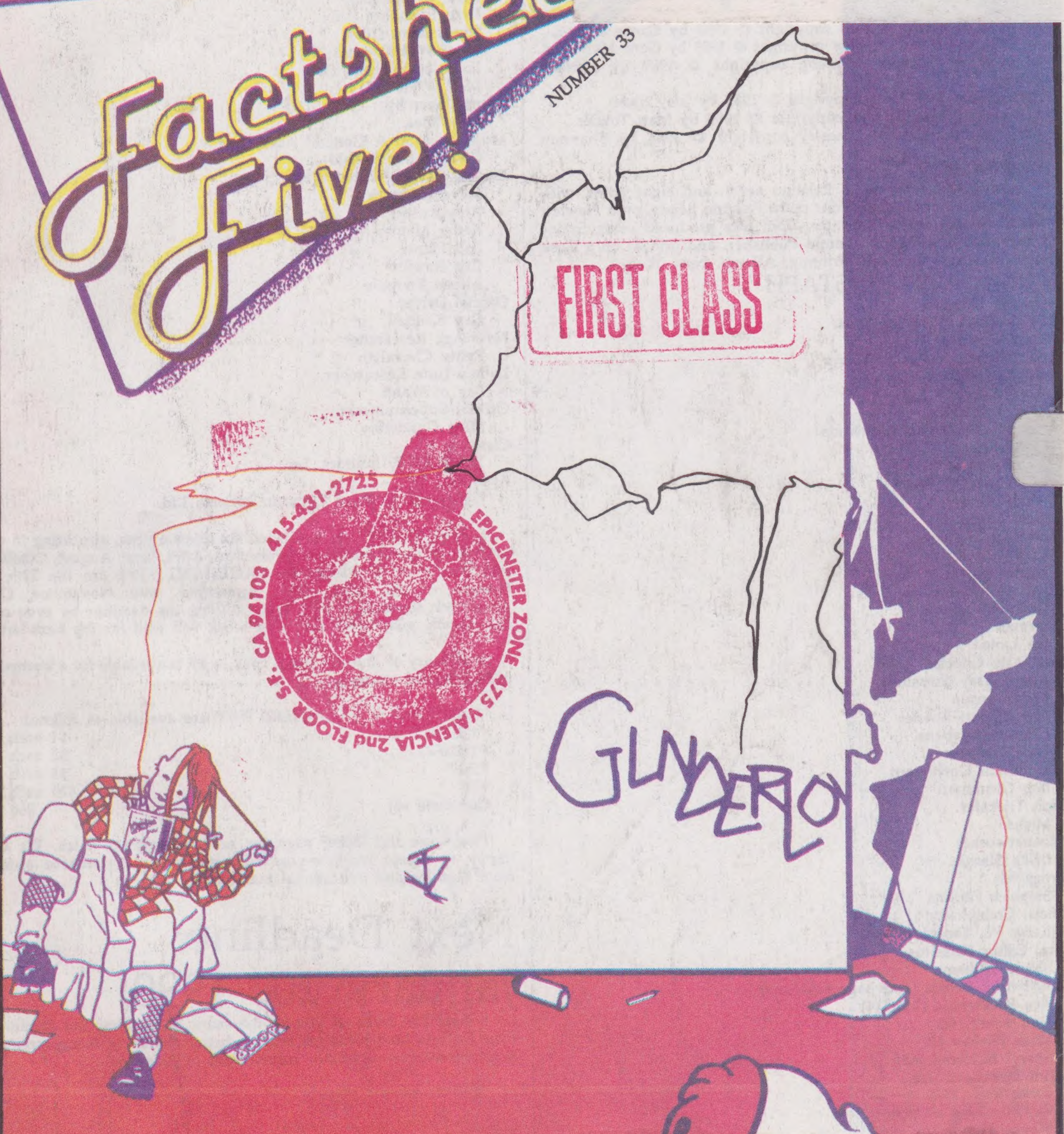

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FACTSHEET FIVE #33

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FACTSHEET FIVE is published six times a year, appearing in the mails on or about the tenth of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Deadlines for **FACTSHEET FIVE** are the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Our production schedule is very tight; missing the deadline by even one day usually guarantees that your work will wait for the next issue.

A glossary of unusual terms used in **FF** is available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Back issues of **FACTSHEET FIVE** are available as follows:

#1,2,3,4,17.1	$1 each
#18,20-32	$2 each
#5-17	$3 each
#19	$10 each
Complete set	$80

Please see the facing page for new subscription rates. We are happy to accept multiple-year subscriptions and purchase orders from libraries and educational institutions.

Next Deadline: January 20, 1990

A note for those of you in the habit of pushing the deadline: your Express Mail packages stand a better chance of being received if you waive the signature requirement on this end.

Factsheet Five

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502; phone (518)-479-3707 (24-hour answering machine, so call anytime); 300/1200/2400 baud phone (518)-479-3879 (call anytime you have a computer handy). This is Pretzel Press publication #824 and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 6900 copies. 33rd issue, December 1989.

This is where I explain the mailing code, on the far right of the first line of the address label.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "33", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "33" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

There are a couple of things that can flank this number. If it's flanked with asterisks (*33*), you've paid for, and should be getting, first class postage. If it's flanked with carets (^33^), then this is a trade copy for which you paid first-class postage, after which you will revert to bulk-mail trade copies. If it's flanked with plus signs (+33+) you're getting a library subscription, including first-class postage, mailing envelopes, and the index.

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell at least ten copies and want to split the proceeds. Distributors get a 40% wholesale discount on all copies, and may sell on consignment. The number after the colon is how many copies I think I'm sending you. For more information on terms, send an SASE.

"L" means you're a lifetime subscriber, and will receive every issue of the magazine as long as either it or you is alive. Lifetime subscribers get their copies sent out bulk mail, without extra goodies. If you want extra goodies, you should be a supporting subscriber (see below) instead. Lifetime subscribers may upgrade to supporting status at any time by paying the current difference in rates.

"M" means you sent me music to review. I usually allow 2 issues for a single, 3 for a tape, or 4 for an LP, but I screw up a bit, so let me know if you're owed more. (Or less).

"P" means you're a prisoner. **FACTSHEET FIVE** is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"R" means that this is a review/checking copy. It is for you to have to check the review I've done of your zine, or to be able to do a review of mine. I would like to see further copies of yours for future review—though of course you're not obligated to publish a review. I will continue to send you R copies as long as I stay on your mailing list, whether you write reviews or not. If you publish infrequently, I expect at least a note every six months to keep you on the mailing list.

"S" means that you are a Supporting Subscriber, and therefore exempt from nonsense. Supporting subscribers get their issues sent First Class, with the index included. They also get free copies of **FACTSHEET FIVE** publications as they're issued—most recently the **WHY PUBLISH?** booklet. Right now we're up to about 77 Supporting subscribers, but there's always room for one more.

"V" means you sent me a videotape to review. If you require the tape to be returned, one video is good for one issue in trade; if you leave it with me for the archives, one video is worth four issues.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/33") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF. *You must get in touch with me at least once every two issues, regardless of the mailing code, to continue getting* FF! This applies to prisoners, artists, traders, everyone!

Send me your zine, drop me a line, do **SOMETHING** so I know you're still out there. Actually, this doesn't apply to subscribers, only to people getting the zine for free. Clear?

Please take a moment to check your mailing label. If there are any mistakes, you have to let me know. They won't fix themselves. And you won't get any further warning if your subscription has run out.

And remember, FF is sent *bulk mail*. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not *too* slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So **PLEASE** get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues. I am not responsible for copies lost due to unannounced moves.

Here's the *new* basic subscription rates:

Regular subscription (anywhere in North America): $3.00 or 8 IRCs per issue up to five issues, $16 or 40 IRCs for a six issue (one year) subscription.

First class subscription (U.S. only): $3.75 per issue up to five issues, $21 for a six issue (one year) subscription.

Library subscription (includes the index and first class mailing in a protective envelope) (U.S. only): $4.50 per issue up to five issues, $23 for a six issue (one year) subscription.

Air Mail subscription (outside U.S. only): $7 or 18 IRCs per issue up to five issues, $38 or 95 IRCs for a six issue (one year) subscription.

Lifetime subscription (anywhere in North America): $75.

Lifetime subscription (outside of North America): $190.

Supporting subscription (anywhere in North America): $125.

Supporting subscription (outside of North America): $330.

I accept for payment cash (U.S. or otherwise), check or money order *drawn in U.S. funds*, unused U.S. stamps or international reply coupons. Please note that I cannot accept checks or money orders drawn in foreign currency. I am, however, happy to accept cash (bank notes) from any country at the official rate of exchange. If you live in a country whose currency does not convert, please write and we'll work out a deal. Those in the Warsaw Pact are encouraged to request a sample copy in exchange for local publications, underground or otherwise.

Unless you specify otherwise, all subscriptions start with the current issue.

Publishers and others who get their issues without paying may have them delivered first class for $1 per issue. This rate is only valid if you would have received that issue anyhow.

Thanks to Jerry B., Doug Biggert, John P. Doucet, Ron Fleshman, Nyle Frank, Katrina Kelly, Thomas Povilaitis, Cliff Puente, Jeffrey Williams, Roy Oki Yamanaka, and Donna Young for their generous donations towards publishing this issue. Special thanks to everyone who renewed their subscription early or encouraged me to raise the price and not feel guilty.

If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and $2, or $2.75 if you're in a hurry. FF makes a great Christmas, birthday, or Bar Mitzvah present. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music, you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering canned goods, negotiable securities, wind-up sushi, ads for Japanese porno videos, or other interesting or amusing flotsam from our society.

Thanks to Herb Ashe, Bag of Water, Clif Bennett, Amy Bergenfeld, Bob Black (double thanks), Mick Boyce, Brian Burch, Donald F. Busky, Edward C. Connors, Scott Cunningham, Paul Di Filippo, Chris Dodge, Chris Duffy, Stephen Farenga, Phelps Gates, Keith Gilbert, Robert Gillie, Gene R. Guthrie, Doc Hinton, Patrick Hodges, Wayne Honath, Herb Jager, Gary Koehl, Geoffrey A. Landis, Joe Lane, Lawrence Livermore, Mike Marinacci, Chris Martin, Fred Mills, L.A. Rollins, Witta Jensen, Prof. Pyramid, Alexander Ryzhkov, Barbara Tan, Paul C. Tumey, Robert Winson, and Martin Morse Wooster for sending new and unknown zines for me to review in this issue. Some of you will find that your donations did not get reviewed—this is because I didn't have time, not because I didn't enjoy them. Sorry. Thanks also to David Kopaska-Merkel for a pile of stuff for the Archives and Fanzine Exchange.

NEWS

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

•**ANCIENT GRANDMA SECRETS** and Libby Gilbert are at PO Box 42691, Tucson, AZ 85733-2691.

•**ANICHTI POLI** may now be reached c/o Alternative Gallery, PO Box 20037, GR-11810 Athens, GREECE.

•**ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO FREE** is running free in PO Box 1484, Oxford, MS 38655.

•**BIG HAMMER** and **BALL PEEN** are pounding away at PO Box 1698, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

•**BLACK EYE** can be hit at 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10003.

•**BLUE GUITARS** is now playing at 3022 N, 5th St., Harrisburg, PA 17110.

•**B-SIDE** has migrated to PO Box 1860, Burlington, NJ 08016.

•**Bug Scratch Tapes** is itching for mail at 49 Muirfield, Abilene, TX 79606.

•**Condemek** is now in PO Box 1544, Tory, NY 12181-1544.

•**CRYSTAL RAIN RESEARCH REPORT** and **MAX(ine)'S TWO PAGES** are now at PO Box 866, Manchester, GA 31816.

•**DIALOGUE** has relocated to PO Box 71221, New Orleans, LA 70172.

•**EDGE DETECTOR** and Glenn Grant have moved again, the 1850 Lincoln Ave. #803, Montreal, Que., H3H 1H4, CANADA.

•**Eleutheros Productions** is now at PO Box 141, Bearsville, NY 12409.

•**ESTUDIO** has been turned over to Amie Oliver at Art Dept., Longwood College, Farmville, VA 23901.

•**Greg Evason** and all his projects have moved to 90 Carden St. #115, Guelph, ONT, N1H 3A3, CANADA.

•**FREE LAUGHS** and Scott Deschaine are now chuckling at 233 Elm Ave., Glenside, PA 19038.

•**FUCK THE TORIES** is grinding away at 5A Frinton Road, Stamford Hill, London, N1 6NH, UK.

•**GOOD VIBES GAZETTE** and Open Enterprises have moved to 1210 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

•**GRINDHOUSE** and J. Adler are now crunching their popcorn in PO Box 488, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10101.

•**GYPSY** and Belinda Subraman have wandered to PO Box 370322, El Paso, TX 79937.

•**HAPPY THRASHER** and Tin-Ear may be heard at 1431 Tierra del Sol Rd., Boulevard, CA 92005.

•Mail for **HOLY TITCLAMPS** should be addressed to Boxholder, PO Box 3054, Minneapolis, MN 55403, *without* the zine name on the envelope.

•**A HOUSE UNITED AGAINST ITSELF** is reunited at PO Box 02024, Columbus, OH 43202.

•**HYPERTONIA WORLD ENTERPRISES** and Jan Bruun are now at PO Box 4307, N-5028 Bergen, NORWAY.

•**THE IIIRD I** may be seen at PO Box 2683, Bellingham, WA 98227-2683.

•**Tad Kepley** may be reached c/o Anne-Marie Hendrickson, 151 First Ave. #62, New York, NY 10003.

•**KINDRED VOICES** may be heard at 1539 11th St., Des Moines, IA 50314.

•**LOMAKATSI** has moved to PO Box 1920, Boulder, CO 80306.

•**Randy Moore** and **Earth Studio** are grounded at 601 Feltz, Bldg. H #5, Perryville, MO 63775.

•**MURTAUGH** is now at 1600 Groton Dr., Hudson, OH 44236.

•**NEW KOMICS** and Matt Mikas are newly installed at 5845 Fairfield Ave. #8, St. Petersburg, FL 33707.

•**NOTHING** occupies PO Box 2487, Bellingham, WA 98227.

•**PAGANS FOR PEACE** has moved westward to PO Box 86134, North Vancouver, BC, V7L 4J5, CANADA.

•**POETIC LIBERTY** has flown to 521 Hazelwood St., Princeton, TX 75077.

•**THE SKELETON QUARTERLY** and Phil Lollar are ratting around at PO Box 411021, San Francisco, CA 94141-1021.

•**SLOB** and Justin Johnson are lying around in PO Box 886, Seattle, WA 98111-0886.

•**Russ Stedman** has moved to 311 1/2 N. Main #301, Mitchell, SD 57301.

•**TAPADANCE** has a new OE, Art Delano at 99 Marion St. #2, Somerville, MA 02143.

•**TARANIKI UNDERGROUND** is poking its head up at c/-F.I.T.O. Press, PO Box 39, Oakura, Taraniki, NEW ZEALAND.

•**David Thayer** and **Teddy Harvia** have meandered off to PO Box 905, Euless, TX 76039.

•**THUNDERBOW II** may be heard at PO Box 185, Wheatridge, CO 80034-0185.

•**TYG** and Mark Nelson are now at 112 Huntley Ave., Spondon, Derby, DE2 7DU, UK.

•**WHO CARES ABOUT APATHY?** and Brian Mastrobuono may be reached at PO Box 8511, Warwick, TI 02888-8511.

Remember, since it costs me 30¢ just to get your COA if the Post Office tells me, and remailing your FF would cost me the price of another copy plus first class postage (they don't return whole issues, just covers), I'm not inclined to send you a replacement when this happens. If you want to keep your collection complete, send me your Change of Address as soon as you know it!

PLEASE NOTE:

•The price of a single copy of FF has gone up to $3, with a subscription price increase effective immediately. See above for details.

•I would be personally interested in hearing from anyone who was in or around Wausau, Wisconsin on the 20th of November.

•Publisher who wish to have their zine listed under a subject heading should specify this when they send the zine for review. Otherwise, you'll be thrown into the alphabetical stew.

•The FF computer bulletin board has been upgraded to 2400 baud, with new software to match. If you've got a computer and a modem, please drop by at (518)-479-3879 and join the conversation.

LOST ADDRESSES

Anybody got a current address for any of these?

- **ASHTRAY**
- Tom Brinkmann, who B.N. Duncan is trying to find.
- Andrew Drouin, who sent me an order from somewhere in Canada with no return address.
- If your name is Ethan and you didn't get the **CHAKRA** you ordered, it's because you didn't put your address on your order. So write Liz at PO Box 8551, FDR Station, New York, NY 10022 and she'll get it to you right away.
- **FLORIDA CONTACT LIST**
- Peter Kalberer, if you're out there, Trevor wants your address so he can write back.
- Noemie Maxwell, formerly of **SUB ROSA**, and now a vanished lifetime subscriber.
- **MIDDLEMAN**, who sent me a review copy with no return address.
- Sharon S. Peterson, who ordered a copy without putting the address on her note.
- Frank Phobia
- **ZEENIE WEENIE**

DEAD ZINES

All of the following have ceased publication in the last few months:

- **ALIVE & DIRECT**
- **AS IS**
- **BLECCH KISS**
- **BI-LINES**
- **BVI-PACIFICA** (Temporarily suspending publication due to being on the outskirts of one of the latest unconstitutional raids by the DEA)
- **CLASSIC TV**
- **CUBIST POP MANIFESTO**
- **DECENTRALIZE** (Suspending publication until July 1990).
- **DOCUMENTS-PAGES**
- **DREAMSHORE** (suspending publication until further notice)
- **FILM EXPERIENCE**
- **GLITCH** (expanding into **TEXAS BEAT**)
- **HELPERS OF PLANET EARTH** (suspending publication while they search for a computer.)
- **HIGH SCHOOL IS A WASTELAND**
- **THINK ZINE** (Articles turned over to **THE ILLITERATE DIGEST** for publication).
- **THE TORCH**

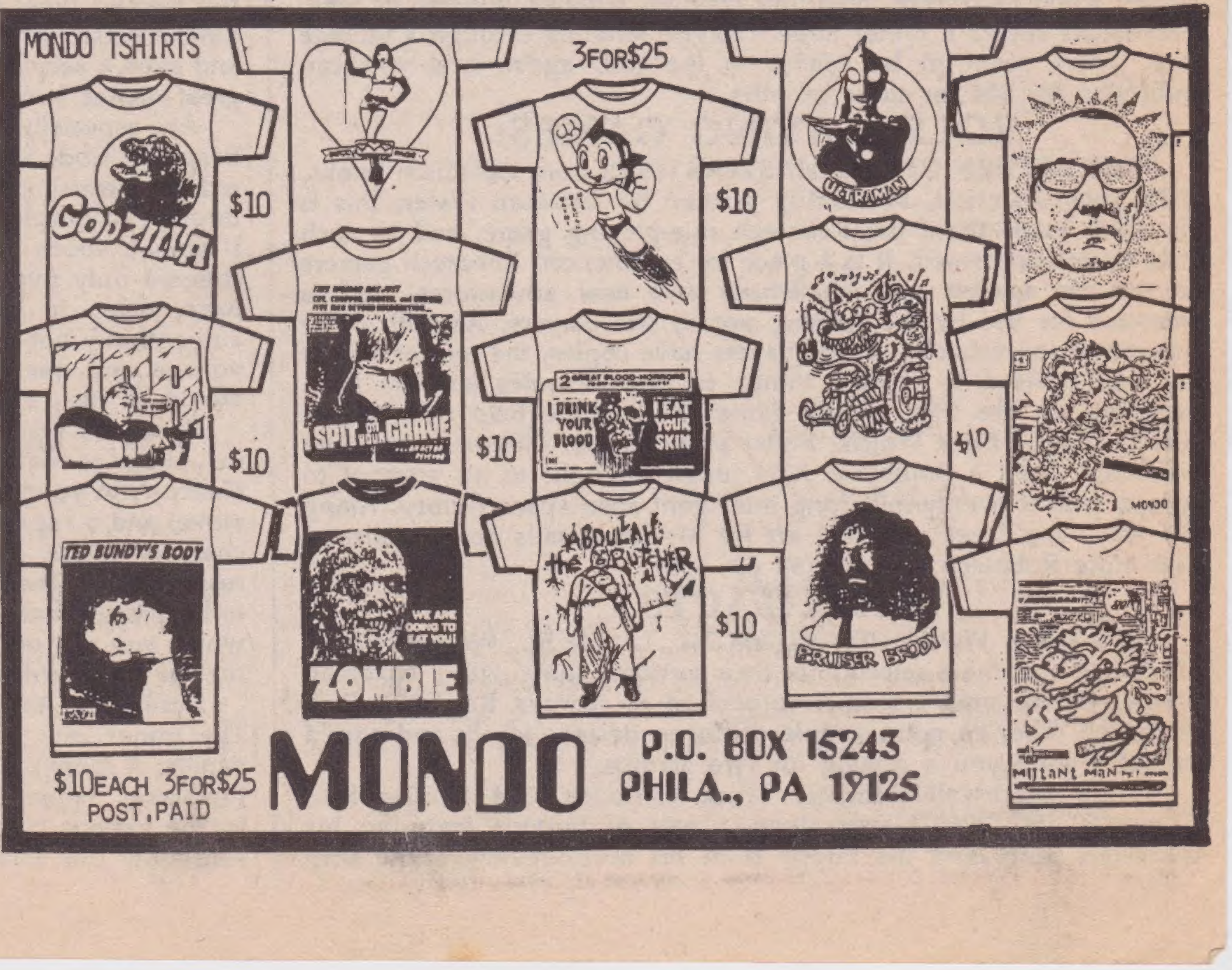
ERRATA

- Oops. **BLIP** is published by Joe Kempe, 106 S. Spruce St. #74, Nokomis, IL 62075.
- **BLOTTER #10** (reviewed in FF31) was 80 pages long, not 8. My apologies for the missing zero.
- The correct zip code for **EAR OF CORN** is 44224.
- **THE ENDEAVOR** (PO Box 23511, Houston, TX 77228-3511), the tabloid put out by prisoners on Death Row in Texas, is available to FF subscribers at the reduced rate of $5 per year. Just tell them you saw it mentioned here.
- My apologies to Nyle Frank for getting his first name consistently wrong in the last issue.
- Apologies to Scott Getchell, whose name I spelled wrong in last issue's **QUIMBY** review.
- And as long as we're on misspelled names, it's F.M. Cotolo who puts out **FAT TUESDAY**. sigh. Well, maybe that's all the names I'll get wrong for a while.
- Somehow the address of **THE GATE** got muddled with another address in the last issue. For the record, it's PO Box 43518, Richmond Heights, OH 44143.
- Last issue I reviewed **GET STUPID** #14—or at least I said I did. What I actually reviewed was **GET STUPID** #13. So the next time I review #14, it will really be #14, and you should be less confused than this note is making you. Okay?
- **THE GRASSY KNOLL GAZETTE** was mistakenly listed as **ENTRE NOUS** in the last issue.
- The full address for the Mile 97 tape reviewed last issue was omitted: it is c/o Christopher, 1225 North East St. #163, Anaheim, CA 92805. Christopher also points out that PBK mixed side one and appeared on side two, and that the price is now $4.
- I omitted the address for Ryder Publishing last time; it is BCM Box 3406, London WC1N 3XX, UK. Sorry about that.
- My apologies to R.A. Schindler, the artist for the half-page art on page 91 of last issue. It figures that I would not credit the only piece commissioned specifically for the zine.
- The correct address for the Universal Church O' Fun is 4326 Woodstock Blvd. #666, Portland, OR 97206-6270.

T-SHIRTS

Yes, they're still coming. This time around, we've the following additions to my wardrobe. Remember, I love to advertise for the lunatic fringe, and the preferred size is Medium or Large.

- 40 Dog (44 N. Broadway #4-BN, White Plains, NY 10603) has t-shirts available featuring the cover drawing from their tape, "Yeh Right!". It features a suburban dude with Walkman and flame-belching lawnmower. Black on a white all-cotton shirt, available for $9.
- Alternative Graphics (PO Box 124, Stn. F, Buffalo, NY 14212) sent me several very nice shirts. First there's "Fight For Your Right To Skateboard", a two-sided shirt in black on red. The front shows a skateboarder escaping from the cops; the back has some basic legal advice on what to do if you're harassed for skating. Next up, in dark blue on a light blue shirt, is "Help Your Local Police, Beat Yourself Up", with a sneering officer of the law and a blood-dripping nightstick. Finally, my favorite, "No Government Is Better Than Our Government", in two colors on a white shirt. All shirts are 100% cotton, and are $7 each in S through XL or $9 for XXL. Postage is $1 for the first shirt and 25¢ for each shirt after that, or you can just send an SASE for their catalog.
- **CAMPUS REVIEW** (336 S. Clinton #16, Iowa City, IA 52240) sent me a couple of their shirts. The back reads "Campus Review: The *Right* Side of the Story", a reference to the conservative orientation of this student paper. But the front is what will stir up trouble: Two stylized male silhouettes engaged in anal intercourse, covered by the international red circle and slash "NO" symbol, and captioned "STOP AIDS". They've defended this as a simple statement of fact, that AIDS can't be stopped without stopping homosexual activity. (Why didn' they show some IV drug users and hemophiliacs?) In any case I hardly think it's an appropriate way



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to make an anti-AIDS statement. But if you must have one, you can get the 50-50 cotton/poly white shirts for $10, in XL only.

•**Little Green Man** is the T-shirt project of Gary Turchin (3776 Manila Ave., Oakland, CA 94609). He's got a batch of designes, some hopeful, some just funny (like the pig pondering "I pink therefore I ham"). I haven't seen the shirts themselves, but the catalog itself is pretty funny, and should be available for 50¢ or so in postage.

•The good folks at **MOTORBOOTY** magazine sent me their "Love Dogs" shirt, with two bizarrely caricatured animals driving a flaming kiddie car and the caption "NOW! NOW! NOW!" at the bottom. Red and white on an all-cotton black shirt, and sure to confuse most people who see it. $10 from PO Box 460472, San Francisco, CA 94146.

•**Public Humiliation** is a band. They have a shirt out with their logo on the front and a questionnaire/ad on the back, urging people to contact them if they feel "loose and confused". The all-cotton shirt is available from PO Box 5892, Orange, CA 92613-5892.

•**QUIMBY** (PO Box 281, Astor Stn., Boston, MA 02123) sent me a shirt but no ordering information. It's a two-sided all-cotton shirt, with a Scott Getchell logo for the zine on one side and a sort of comics jam on the back, featuring a bunch of the regular contributors to the zine. Nice work.

•**Re/Shirts** (126 Ninth Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118-1223) is the t-shirt arm of the **RE/SEARCH** fringe media conglomerate, with a number of curious designs. They sent me a copy of their William Burroughs shirt, which is quite striking. It features a picture of Burroughs with some vicious-looking gun and the quote "We intend to destroy all dogmatic verbal systems..." on a bright red background, atop a white (all-cotton) shirt. $16 postpaid.

•Got a shirt from the band **SINISTER ATTRACTION**. It features the band logo on the front and a triptych of seriously injured arms on the back. White on black, 50-50 mix, and available for $10 from Sandy Kane, PO Box 85, Landenberg, PA 19350.

•**The Swinging Erudites** shirt comes from One-Dimensional Records (PO Box 1926, Harvard Square Stn., Cambridge, MA 02238). It's bright yellow with a blue picture of their hanging logo, a wild grinning silhouette with a hand for a head and armpit tufts. Definitely a conversation stopper. Shirts are $8 and are 50-50 cotton/polyester mix.

•**Roy Tompkins** (PO Box 16022, Austin, TX 787861) sent me one of his insect shirts. This particular one features large two-color dragonflies front and back, but he also has weevils, spiders, ladybugs, and more. A nice, enigmatic image; $10 on an all-cotton shirt.

•**The T-Shirt of the Month Club** (Freddie Baer, c/o Mystopia, PO Box 410151, San Francisco, CA 94141-0151) is still turning out high-quality enigmatic graphic images. October featured another classic woodcut collage, featuring children blowing bubbles of time. November shows a rather large Valkyrie strolling through a vintage city. There seem to be spaces in the club again, and you can subscribe for $24 for three months.

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES:

•**THE RETURN OF THE MASTERS** ($9.95 from Palladium Books, 5926 Lonyo, Detroit, MI 48210): Written by Jonathan Frater, this is the sixth book about the Robotech role-playing game, and as such it is *not* self-contained. It is a place for experienced Robotech gamers to run up against new challenges and new adventures, and is intended for use by the referee, not by the players. As with other adventure sourcebooks, if the players have copies, the referee would be well advised to change things to prevent rules lawyers from screwing up the flow of the game. With some help from Kevin Siembieda and Erick Wujcik, Frater presents four different adventure scenarios, from a Southeast Asia jungle firefight to an attempt to reason with a twenty-mile long intelligent alien space factory. Along the way, you'll get a martial art for Mecha, details on moonbases, and more Robotech history. (88 pp. tpb)

ARTIFACTS

•**BIG DICK WORSHIP** (PO Box 247, Lasalle St., West Hartford, CT 06107) sent me a selection of their buttons, some iwth a Nixonian theme, others simply women captioned "I Always Read Big Dick Worship". They've got a couple of dozen designs in all, and would probably send you a catalog for two stamps.

•**Mark Blackwell** (Monster Truck Cartoons, 374 Pimlico Rd., Greenville, SC 29607) sent along a pair of buttons featuring his characters Sutty and the Puppy from his music-review comic strip in SPIN. You can get the pair of enigmatic black and white buttons for $3. Or you can get Mark's catalog just by asking.

•**Castle Rising** (PO Box 3127, Morgantown, WV 26505) offers a wonderfully expansive selection of incenses, and sent some samples for review. Overall, the incense was of good quality, lit quickly (I tend to get aggressive if required to toast my tips to set a mood) and burned for about 30 minutes. Although samples were sent in stick form, nearly all scents are available as powders, resins, or liquids, and many can even be purchased as perfume oils. The sticks sent came in a variety of smells, but they're only the tip of a good-sized iceberg according to the catalog. To try and be most useful, I've ranked the strength of the smell from 1-5, with 5 being the strongest and least friendly to cats.

Floral tones in some of the more ambiguously named flavors such as Lunar (2-3) and Quest (3-4) seemed to be the trend. In fact, the difference between these two seemed to be the strength. Another similar smell was Blue Gypsy (3-4) except that it was just a bit more sweet. Put Meditation (3-4) in this grouping too. Herbal (3) lived up to its name, and was a nice, clean smell—one of my favorites. Spicy Lemon (3-4) lived up to its name as well—more spicy than lemony, but with definite citrus undertones. Walnut (1-2) was another personal favorite, and I think possibly the lightest incense I have ever smelled. My cat, Buddha, also rated it favorably—high praise indeed! Although no terribly nutty it was a really enjoyable woody and woodsy scent. Nefertite (4) had an oriental/spicy flavoring, It was a nice smell, but a bit too heavy for my tastes. I had this problem with Emeralds (5) too. Very perfumey, dusky sort of smell—not bad, just too heavy.

To summarize, there were no scents in the bunch that I'd call *nasty*. In fact, nearly all of them were quite tasteful. Those into incense know that this is not always the case. Even the lightest incenses lingered around the house for a couple of days, so you'll be able to stretch your olfactory dollar. Prices are reasonable ($2.50 for 15 sticks) or the fun and helpful catalog is available for $3. The company has thoughtfully color coded all their flavors by scent type, and there are also incenses specially designed with your astrological sign in mind. This seemed to be a neat company, worth checking out. (Guest review by Laura Steele)

•**Castle Rising** (PO Box 3127, Morgantown, WV 26505) advertises itself as "the largest incense selection anywhere." Although I don't honestly know whether this is true or not, I have yet to see so many different scents advertised in so many different categories. These range from Florals (a truly fruity Cherry Blossom) to New Age-like Ancient Worlds (a peppy-smelling Ankh), Witchy Ways (warm, homey Covenstead and sweet, light floral White Solstice), Astrological (basil-flavored Scorpio), Elements (spicy Fire, herbal, loamy Earth) and Mystical Journeys (an aptly-names Tranquility). But beyond these are some very unusual categories, indeed: Luxury Line (a plush, sweet, and almost fruity Amber), the Masculine Realm, and even a selection of teen-age scents called Flash and Trash (some great names here, but I didn't get any samples to try).

An especially intriguing and helpful feature is the Aromatic Response Code similar to the candle code I saw in a book on Wicca: red for sexual passion, orange for energy, gold for richness, on through to purple for authority, a solemn black, and a neutral gray. I cannot vouch for most of these, since my packet of samples covered only five of the thirteen color codes listed, but the ones I have seem to bear them out: their "red" Hot Cinnamon is authentically hot and perhaps a bit lustful, the "Orange" Fire is high voltage and energetic. Even so, I wonder what a blue fragrance would be like, a green, a lavender, or even a gray.

Prices are reasonable: $2.50 for 15 sticks, $4.50 for perfumed oils in 1/4ounce vials, and two other forms: an incense oil to put on charcoal, in your fireplace (or on to a light bulb, a radiator, or your stove) and a "sparkling powder", which is self-lighting like barbecue charcoal (these are 1/4ounce at $4.50 and 2 ounces at $2.50 respectively). There are also Exotic Resins, which are like potpourris to burn over charcoal ($3.50 to $4.50), Stewing Herbs ($3.50/package) which you can put into water and simmer on your stove, and some regular potpourris as well, at the same price.

I only have three sour notes to report: one minor and two major. The minor one is that their French Vanilla is very nice but not vanilla. A more major one is that, as with many fragrance companies, the scents' names are more evocative than the actual product. That is, the various categories bespeak clever marketing rather than true sensitivity (for example, the Blues fragrance, in their music section, is characterized as being "loving, friendly, and joyous", which is *not* what I associate with Robert Johnson). Their most questionable feature is the scarcity of genuine ethnic and magickal incenses: although there are pages of fragrances with exotic and fanciful names like Yin & Yang, Cleopatra, Vision, and Pentacle, I searched in vain for such old favorites as lignum aloes, cassia, juniper, nurikon, and chip sandalwood (although they do have it in oils or stick form). They have a large selection of voodoo fragrances (which are cheap and easy to come by elsewhere) but they do not have the lignum ales/styrax/olibanum mixture beloved of Aleister Crowley, or the dittany of Crete (recommended by another Magickal writer) that I use myself in ritual and devotions. This seems rather shallow.

These quibbles aside, I found that the quality was uniformly good throughout: the sticks are durable, do not crumble, are heavily impregnated with oil, and burn very well. I, myself, plan many purchases from them in the future, and warmly recommend this concern to anyone who makes incense or fragrances a part of their life. (Guest review by Alissa Clough)

(See—we *can* review anything!)

•**MODOM 2** is a found art object from Jake Berry (2251 Helton Dr. #N7, Florence, AL 35630). There's 25 different pieces of scrap metal that he found beside the railroad track. Mine is E-shaped and came in a matchbox, with some engraved designs on the metal. If you must have your own, you can get one for $10.

•**Mr. Fix** buttons are available for $1.50 each from Scott L. Stevens, 8220 Research #114B, Austin, TX 78758. They feature a color picture of the grinning maniac character with fishing pole and knife.

•**Official John Six Personal Effects in a Cigarette Pack** is the self-descriptive name of the latest production from the enigmatic folks at Nonoxynol-9 (PO Box 7792, Rego Park, NY 11374). In this case the cigarette pack was from Newport menthols, and inside were a used lighter, a photo, some trash, a rubber band, a ring, and other flotsam. $1 will get you a selection of Mr. Six's cast-off personal effects, and the fifth person to order gets a free 555 tape.

•**Brian K. Smith** (542 Church St., Decatur, GA 30030) has a whole mess of promotional paraphernalia available for sale. For $2 you can get 20 assorted stickers (the ones he sent me include radio station promos, Dragnet, Disney movies, baseball players, and more). Or for $4 you can get 20 assorted buttons (I got more movies, RC Cola, John Denver, Disneyland). Finally, for $5 he'll send you 20 different posters (these were heavily music company promos, plus more movies, travel, and some assorted advertising). Everything came well-packed and without duplicates.

•**TRUE CRIME TRADING CARDS** come from Kim Assaley, 1904 W. Huron, Chicago, IL 60622. The first edition features Bundy, Speck, Manson and Gacy, along with a stick of gum and a magnifying glass. No price given; maybe a couple of bucks.

SOFTWARE

•I will review IBM-PC compatible software personally, and have reviewers for MacIntosh, Apple II, Atari ST and Commodore 64 software, so if you know of any interesting programs for these machines, please put them in touch with FF.

•**THE ALCHEMIST #9** ($7.50 from Guernica Editions, PO Box 633, Stn. NDG, Montreal, QUE, H4A 3R1, CANADA): The only issue of this zine ever designed for computer disk. The disk begins with a striking full-color opening screen and follows with kinetic concrete poems by bpNichol, illustrated haiku by Marco Fraticelli, reader-driven poems and stories by Richard O'DOnnell and more. A good overview of the viisual writing done for the computer screen so far. (Apple II—reviewed by Geof Huth)

•**The Aquarian Research Foundation** maintains a shared mailbox on MCI Mail, picking up the tab in order to allow folks to get in touch with each other via computer. The idea is that everyone uses one account to leave messages which are open to all, and a system of trust keeps it from breaking down. Their big interest right now is the abolition of the military as a step towards a better world. Intentional communities are another interest. For more information,

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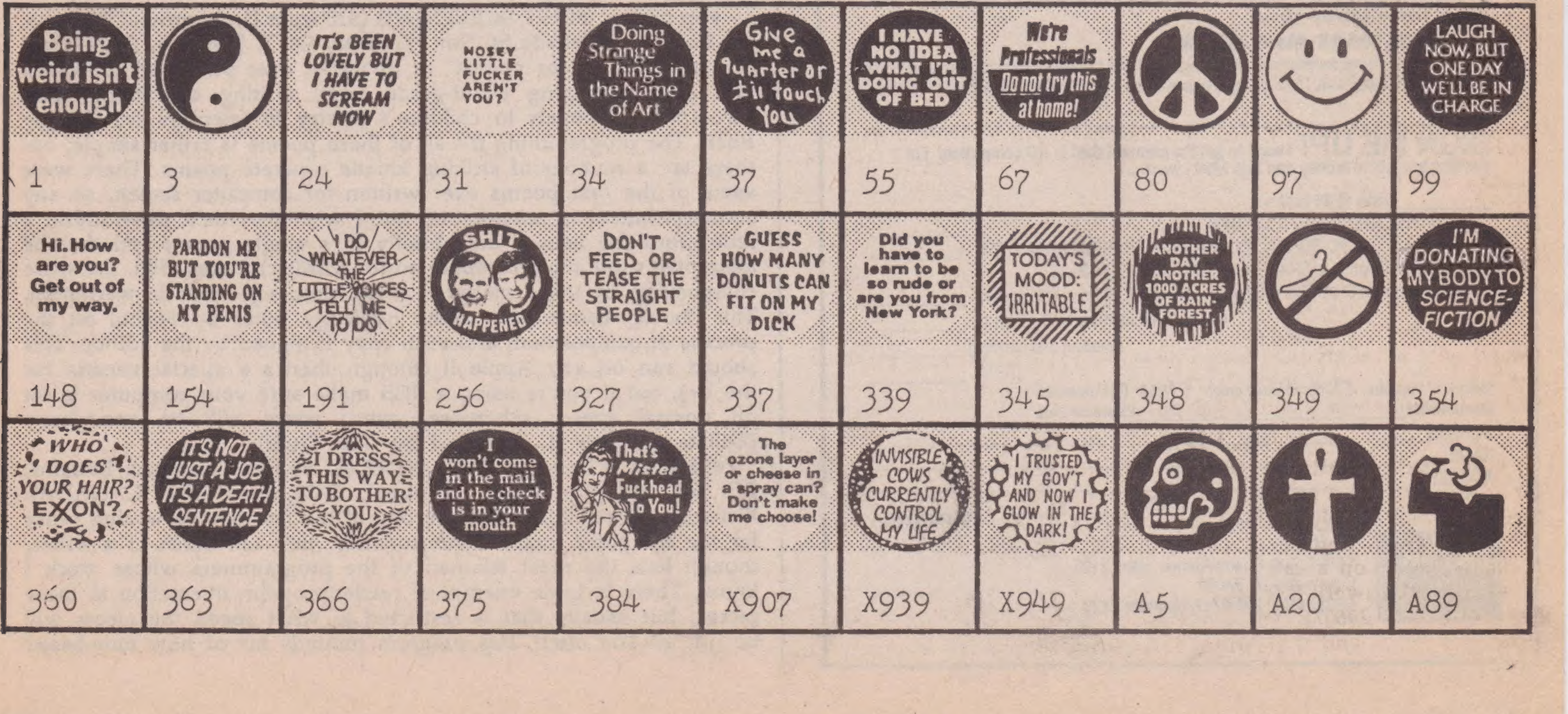
Being weird isn't enough
1
3
IT'S BEEN LOVELY BUT I HAVE TO SCREAM NOW
24
NOSEY LITTLE FUCKER AREN'T YOU?
31
Doing Strange Things in the Name of Art
34
Give me a quarter or I'll touch You
37
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING OUT OF BED
55
We're Professionals Do not try this at home!
67
80
97
LAUGH NOW, BUT ONE DAY WE'LL BE IN CHARGE
99
Hi. How are you? Get out of my way.
148
PARDON ME BUT YOU'RE STANDING ON MY PENIS
154
I DO WHATEVER THE LITTLE VOICES TELL ME TO DO
191
SHIT HAPPENED
256
DON'T FEED OR TEASE THE STRAIGHT PEOPLE
327
GUESS HOW MANY DONUTS CAN FIT ON MY DICK
337
Did you have to learn to be so rude or are you from New York?
339
TODAY'S MOOD: IRRITABLE
345
ANOTHER DAY ANOTHER 1000 ACRES OF RAIN-FOREST
348
349
I'M DONATING MY BODY TO SCIENCE-FICTION
354
WHO DOES YOUR HAIR? EXXON?
360
IT'S NOT JUST A JOB IT'S A DEATH SENTENCE
363
I DRESS THIS WAY TO BOTHER YOU
366
I won't come in the mail and the check is in your mouth
375
That's Mister Fuckhead To You!
384
The ozone layer or cheese in a spray can? Don't make me choose!
X907
INVISIBLE COWS CURRENTLY CONTROL MY LIFE
X939
I TRUSTED MY GOV'T AND NOW I GLOW IN THE DARK!
X949
A5
A20
A89

SOFTWARE FOR FREE??!

Well, not exactly free, but certainly one of the greatest bargains in computing. Experience the wonders of "shareware" with computer software that you can try at a nominal price and upgrade at a later time, giving the registration fee directly to the author of that given program. PC-SIG is the world's largest distributor of shareware and public domain software for the IBM compatible. As an international source for quality software, PC-SIG serves its users with virus-free programs, expert technical support, courteous customer service and prompt order processing.

☐ GALAXY(765)
Some consider this the swiftest and easiest to use word processor ever! Menu driven, spell check, find and replace features.

☐ ZOOM RACKS (1287, 1288)
"Database of the year" says Compute! Magazine. Organize everything for business letters, to inventory, to sales, to collections. Whole businesses are running on ZOOM RACKS alone. Requires 384 K. COUNTS AS 2 DISKS.

☐ PC-CALC+ (199, 1016, 1017)
Buttonware's most popular spreadsheet has 16,000 cells, graph making ability and a walk-through tutorial. Hard disk required. COUNTS AS 3 DISKS

☐ PROCOMM (499)
The popular telecommunications package for Datastorm Technologies enables you to access computer bulletin boards in a straight-forward manner.

☐ WILDCAT BBS (745, 746)
A new bulletin board which even the relatively inexperienced can set up and operate. It supports all the popular file-transfer methods such as XMODEM and YMODEM, among others. COUNTS AS 2 DISKS.

☐ FLU-SHOT+ (1119)
Protect your PC's hard disk from viruses, trojan horses and other pests.

☐ OPINION MASTER SURVEY SYSTEM (1035, 1036)
Determine people's attitudes or opinions regarding any subject. Creates custom surveys & analyzes the results. Requires 320 K & hard drive. COUNTS AS 2 DISKS.

☐ EZ-FORMS LITE (1202)
Design and print your own business forms in minutes. Requires 320K and dot matrix printer.

☐ FAMILY TREE (1535)
This program provides a convenient means of collecting and compiling genealogical and biographical information.

☐ WISDOM OF THE AGES (1498-1501)
Discover the insightful thoughts and advice of some of the most significant thinkers throughout history. WISDOM OF THE AGES provides a capsulized collection of mankind's wisdom spanning over 2,000 years. COUNTS AS 4 DISKS.

☐ THE PC-SIG ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SHAREWARE
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send an SASE to them at 5620 Morton St., Philadelphia, PA 19144. Or if you already know the MCI ropes, phone Art Rosenblum at 215-849-1259 to get the password and account number.

•BIBLIO-FILE is a database designed specifically for collectors of paperback books. I haven't had the chance to evaluate a copy, but you can get more information by writing to the folks who sell it: Goode Associates, PO Box 210733, Nashville, TN 37221. The software itself is $95, including manual.

•CURSES ($10 from RK West Consulting, PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346) is a database which generates any number of insults by recombining words in its vocabulary. (It also does compliments, but those seem intrinsically less interesting). A few choice items that turned up when I was running it: "superannuated waste of flesh", "irredeemably skinny fiend", and "lice infested nag". You can add or subtract to the vocabulary easily to create your own unique curses. The program seems bombproof and fast, and is easy to use. (IBM)

•DIVORCE - ANIMATED STRATEGY FOR MEN ($6 plus $4 s&h per order from PC-SIG, 1030 D E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #888): This is an animated presentation (using CGA graphics) of how men can get a divorce under California's no-fault law. While this is mildly entertaining, the sexism of the presentation isn't. It was obviously written by a guy who's had a bad experience and is turned off by marriage and the thought of women in general. But if you want a divorce, it may get you started. On the other hand, I sure wouldn't rely on a computer disk for legal advice. (IBM)

•Marco Fraticelli, DEJA VU ($7.50 from Guernica Editions, PO Box 633, Stn. NDG, Montreal, QUE, H4A 3R1, CANADA): Fraticelli has some fine haiku in this collection, but there doesn't seem to be any reason to have translated these poems into the kinetics of the computer screen. The haiku are first presented to the reader visually, line by line or word by word. And illustration is added to each poem as well, but Fraticelli ends each poem by reproducing it in orthodox three-line form, thus negating the visual language the poem was first given to us with. Also comes with a French version translated by Nunzia Iavarone. (Apple II—reviewed by Geof Huth)

•MAYAN CALENDAR ($5 from R.K. West Consulting, PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346; registered version $29): This program has one simple task: to convert dates into the Mayan calendar. It does so quickly, and the program seems well bombproofed against accidental keypresses, though it didn't always recover from errors without dumping me out to DOS. There's a big chunk of documentation as well, explaining the Mayan calendar and some of the technicalities involved in converting dates. Users can even modify the program if they don't agree with the author on historical interpretation of when the count begins. Finally, it will print a short horoscope on the screen for any given day; astronomers may find this silly, but New Agers (the other major audience) will probably appreciate it. (IBM)

•bp Nichol, FIRST SCREENING ($10 from Underground Editions, PO Box 262, Adelaide St. Stn., Toronto, ONT, M5C 2J4, CANADA): The only "computer poems" of bpNichol ever published. bpNichol was a wide-ranging avant-garde poet, writing everything from pwoermds to novels to children's poetry to teleplays for **Fraggle Rock**. The programming for all of these poems is rather simple, but there are a number of striking kinetic concrete poems. There were some of the first poems ever written for computer screen, so any accomplishment is remarkable, but I wish that he'd used sound a little more (he uses it only briefly in a single poem) and that he attempted some more complicated (or wordier) pieces. Still, the spare composition of these pieces is often precisely what is warranted. This "book" comes with some hardcopy notes by Nichol on the process of composition, and each copy is signed by the author. This should run on any Apple II (though there's a special version for the II+), but if you're using a IIGS make sure your computer is set on normal speed; otherwise, every poem will be annoyingly pixillated. (Apple II—reviewed by Geof Huth)

•Richard O'Donnell, RICE WINE ($7.50 from Guernica Editions, PO Box 633, Stn. NDG, Montreal, QUE, H4A 3R1, CANADA): Richard O'Donnell seems to be one of the few people writing prose for the computer screen. Unfortunately, he's not much of a writer, though he's the most talented of the programmers whose work I know. There is some attempt at reader/program interaction in these pieces, but usually that is restricted to what speed the pieces will be run at. Too often, this program reminds me of how time-based screen-reading really is, but there are occasional surprises in the prose that might make this worth buying for some. (Apple II—reviewed by Geof Huth)

•**PC-FILE+** ($18 plus $4 s&h per order from PC-SIG, 1030 D E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #5,730, and 1015): I recently upgraded to this shareware database, and can wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone. After months of hard use, I haven't run across any bugs, and am still finding new features. It does everything you'd want a single-file database program to do, and includes some pretty advanced features, like on-screen report design, graphics summaries, and a separate dedicated program for printing labels—which in fact made the label on your copy of FF if you got it in the mail. The on-disc documentation is extensive and the installation is easy. You'd be well off to have a hard disk to run this, although you can do it from a dual floppy system, and 384K is the minimum memory. Frankly, I don't see any reason to pay more for a database; if you must have dBase compatibility, there's another version (PC-File:dB) which provides it. The program is from Buttonware, one of the best of the shareware producers; full registration is $69.95. (IBM)

•**RACHEL** stands for Remote Access Chemical Hazards Electronic Library, which is a database of information about hazardous wastes. It's got several thousand documents in it, fully indexed, and with a search engine that's reasonably evident once you start playing with it. I found it easy to get the documents I wanted to see up on the screen, and to view them in full or in summary. For information on getting a user ID on the system, call the Environmental Research Foundation at 609-683-0707.

•**Red October** is a BBS for players of Champions, Fantasy Hero, and other HERO System Role-playing games. 300/1200/2400 baud, (512)-834-2548.

•**VERSE** ($6 plus $4 s&h per order from PC-SIG, 1030 D E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #1511): This program, designed to be run from your AUTOEXEC file, puts a different Bible verse on the screen each morning. Options allow the user to clear the screen first, hold the message there until the user presses a key, and print the verse for a specific day. Data files are supplied that give one per day, and they're standard ASCII, so you can edit them with your word processor. Since the display engine is separate from the data, and the data format is explained in the on-disk documentation, you could use this for any other date-based display: birthdays, historical events, whatever. There is no registration fee for this program; the author asks that instead you spread it around so more people will read the Bible each day. (IBM)

•**WILDCAT!** ($6 plus $4 s&h from PC-SIG, 1030 D E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #745 & 746; shareware version also available on the FF BBS at 518-479-3879): This is the Bulletin Board System which is now being used by the FF BBS. It features optional color menus, fast indexed databases so that messages and users and files can be found without delay, and a (to me, anyhow) sensible organization. We've not had any problems with it since upgrading to the registered version ($129 from Mustang Software, PO Box 2264, Bakersfield, CA 93303), although the interaction between our modem and the shareware version was a bit wonky at times. The program features menus that can be customized to the sysop's heart's content, timed events, links to other programs (in the registered version only) so that the user can run games (for example) while on line, and a security system that can be as relaxed or laid-back as you please. Even with the simple password protection we're using here, the security is good; attempts to hack the system have been both foiled and noted in the log file. This is definitely the best BBS software I have used; a bit tough to set up (though the manual gets you through the lengthy process, it is lengthy) but a joy to run after that. (IBM)

IMPORTANT EVENTS

•**The Earth Concert** will be December 31st of this year, and is planned to be a 12-hour live telethon and concert from around the globe which "will offer the world an opportunity to unite in a spirit of peace and global cooperation and consider what we can do to save our planet from environmental devastation." For more information send 3 IRCs to Earth Concert, Anse St-Jean, Quebec, CANADA G0V 1J0.

•**The 1990 World Symposium on Interspecies & Interdimensional Communication** will be held in Tucson, January 24-28, 1990. For more information, contact Project Gemini c/o Planetary Citizens, PO Box 1509, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067 or call (916)-926-3950. Registration is $375, plus room.

•**Speedboat Gallery** (1166 Selby, St. Paul, MN 55104) is hosting a nationwide exhibition of alternative and underground posters of all types. The show will be in February 1990; deadline for submissions is January 1st.

•**SXSW 90** is the fourth annual music & media conference to be held in Austin. Registration is $75 before December 31, $150 after that. You can contact them at PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; (512)-477-7979.

•**The International Primate Protection League** is planning an annual members' meeting, with the first one to be held March 23-25, 1990. For more information, contact the IPPL at PO Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484.

•**The Grove St. Gallery** (100 Grove St., Third Floor, Worcester, MA 01609) is planning a comic book & fanzine art show for some time in Spring 1990. They're looking for submissions now; send SASE for more information.

•**CORFLU 7** is the convention for science fiction fanzine fans, being held in New York City on May 4-6, 1990. Registration is $35 for an attending membership or $5 for a supporting membership, from Lise Eisenberg, 99 Joralemon St. #6D, Brooklyn, NY 11201, who is also the person to write for more information. I'll be there, assuming my schedule allows it.

•**A Conference on Biostasis & Reentry** is being held at Asilomar (a conference center in California) August 24-26, 1990. This will include both technical sessions and political discussions for advocates of cryonics. Prices for the weekend start at $135. Contact Lifepact, PO Box 18698, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706; (916)-577-4746 for more information.

•A national **Lesbian Conference** will take place April 24-28, 1991. The national planning office may be reached at PO Box 3057, Albany, NY 12203 or call (518)-463-1051; the conference itself will take place in Atlanta.

•If you're interested in a pagan events, you should subscribe to Larry Cornett's calendar of festivals, gatherings, and so on. $4 per year from 9527 Blake Ln. #102, Fairfax, VA 22031.

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Send to: **Speedboat Gallery** 1166 Selby,
St Paul MN 55104. Call us: (612) 647-9733.

•**A.1 Waste Paper Co., Ltd.** (71, Lambeth Walk, London SE11, ENGLAND) has announced a Thematic Compilation Tape Exchange: "pudding songs, train songs, chicken songs, mad songs, etc." They promise to consider all submissions and send out a list to all participants.

•**Cloud 247** (PO Box 1132, Eastsound, Orcas Island, WA 98245) wants to swap packets of detritus with "fellow postal pirates". They sent me a big envelope filled with poems, scribbles, clippings, patches, random artwork, flotsam and jetsam, and well-decorated outside. I'm sure they'd be happy to swap for similar goodies.

•**Ryosuke Cohen** is still churning out the **BRAIN CELL** series of A3-sized posters, festooned with multi-colored stamps and stickers from around the world. To get in on the fun send your own rubber stamp to him at 3-76-I-A-613 Tagumokitacho, Moriguchi-City, Osaka 570, JAPAN.

•**A Festival of Censorship** is scheduled to take place February 24-March 16 at Phoenix's Gallery X. They're looking for works on the theme of censorship, any medium, any size. Contact Peter Petrisko, Jr., PO Box 56942, Phoenix, AZ 85079.

•**Fly** (PO Box 5554, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1N7, CANADA) continues to issue itself as a magazine on postcards, with occasional bits of larger-format information. It wanders through a network of artists and performers, producing high-quality graphics. Send a buck or two to see a sample.

•**Jazz Past/Future** is the theme of a show being curated by FaGaGaGa (PO Box 1382, Youngstown, OH 44501). Deadline is May 1, 1990; size and media open.

•**Junk Mail** is the new project of Alizarin from **DRIPPINGWETTE GAZETTE** (PO Box 127, Wickatunk, NJ 07765. "For $2 or some junk, I'll send or trade some other junk!"

•**Gene J. Kuhn** (1103 E. St. Germain, St. Cloud, MN 56304) is a reader who's decided to take the plunge into mail art and has asked to be listed as a source of interesting trade material.

•**The Last Nicety** (SASE from Norma Lee Edwards, 220 Locust St., Reading, PA 19604) is a single-page story which Norma asked be listed here. It's sort of a parable of the death of activism at the hands of the unthinking state. Anyhow, you can probably swap for it.

•**Serse Luigetti** (Via Ulisse Rocchi, 3, 06100 Perugia, ITALY) sent me a stack of posters and postcards, with various collaged and xerographically altered images on them. He looks like a good bet for trading art with.

•**Ruggero Maggi** (C.so Sempione 67, 20149 Milano, ITALY) sent me another envelope full of stamps, photocopy art, altered media images, and rubber stampings.

•**Malok** (PO Box 41, Waukau, WI 54980) is a constant source of strange collages and rubber stampings. Images from the mass media tend to play a strong part in these works. Send some stuff and you might get back an envelope full of surprises.

•**MENSTRUAL VICTIMS MEMORIAL PACKAGE** is what Mellow Mango (Apt. #18B Beal's Cove Rd., Hingham, MA 02043) is calling his fat envelope stuffed full of junk, from drawings to whole magazines. You can get one for $3.

•**NOT HOW NOW** is a continuing collection of self-portraiture in various altered formats, printed on stickers and then pasted down on heavy card-stock and bound with black ribbon. It's a very arty production, and it comes from Torquil Anderson, 51 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4JS, SCOTLAND.

•**Julee-Peezlee** (PO Box 17863, Denver, CO 80217) sent along some "junk etc. art, flotsam etc."—altered photos, hand-made postcards, rubber stampings. She's very interested in exchanging such things with other artists.

•**Reaction Vial/Vile Reaction** is the second in a series of pieces of biochemical mail art from The Madman of San Anselmo (1503-A San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo, CA 94960-1817). It features an empty labeled peptide synthesis reaction column and may be had for an SASE.

•**The Rev. Rad-Chad With Kung-Fu Grip** (SU Box 6269, Georgetown, TX 78626) has envelopes full of flotsam plus his own curious-looking glyphs to send out to folks who send him 50¢ plus any neat junk they want to get rid of.

•**STAMP AXE Vol. 5 #2** (C$35 MO from Pierre Lefebvre, 4484 Colonial Ave., Montreal, Que, H2W 2C7, CANADA): The title of this one is "Book Object", and it's a vast collection of original artwork from the mail art world. Put out in a limited edition of fifty, it comes in a huge woven-plastic and silkscreened bag. Inside are all manner of things—little zines, original collages, a balloon with printing on it, rubber stamped art, photocopy art, silk screens, colored photographs...it can take a long time to appreciate the sheer variety here, but the effort involved is obvious from the first. Definitely one for collectors.

•**Urban Stuffins** is a project of Drumbeat Productions, 231 E. 29th St. #113, New York, NY 10016. For a 45¢ SASE & trade of most anything, you'll get back all sorts of fliers, labels, cutup ads, flotsam, jetsam, garbage and miscellaneous printed matter.

•**Michael Voodoo** (PO Box 12461, Lake Park, FL 33403) is edging back into the mail art world, this time announcing himself alternately as "The Church of Christ" and "The Werewolf Society". I'm sure he'd be happy to exchange collages, stickers and whatnot with most anyone.

OTHER NEWS

•**011-39-7779-3020** is an international phone number. I don't know what the official name of this line is, but I call it Dial-A-Pope, as it gives you the latest English language recorded message from John Paul II.

•**The 1990 World's Best Short Short Story Contest** (Jerome Stern, Short Short, English Dept., Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL 32306) is offering a $100 prize for the best story under 250 words received by February 15, 1990. Send an SASE for full rules.

•**@ Distribution** (396 7th St. #2, Jersey City, NJ 07302) is a wholesaler of anarchist books. If you're a store or someone else who ought to buy at wholesale, you can get their current catalog for a 50¢ SASE.

•**ABSINTHE** is a planned new zine which is looking for "feverish poems, Fortean facts or decadent tales". You can contact them at Absinthe Press, 537 Jones St. #484, San Francisco, CA 94102. "I'm also welcoming any work with an earthquake theme", writes editor Cantara Christopher.

•**The Almasi Scholars**, who advertised in **FF31** and **FF32**, appear to be not only sexists, but unreliable as well. I've heard from several people who sent them money and received nothing in return. If this happened to you, please drop me a line. I would also like to hear from you if you've had a positive experience ordering their stuff. Incidentally, they threatened me with lawsuit for mentioning complaints, which should tell you something about the kind of operation they are.

•**AMNESIA** (c/o Rex, PO Box 661441, Los Angeles, CA 90066) is a forthcoming magazine that's eagerly looking for art for their premiere issue. They seem open to most any form, as long as it's got some impact.

•**The Animal Liberation Front Support Group of Canada** (Box 42 10024-82 Ave., Edmonton, Aberta, T6E 1Z3, CANADA) is asking for donations to support the underground and illegal activities of the Animal Liberation Front. For $10 or more you'll get their newsletter.

•**The Anti-Catholic League** (18620 McCraken Rd., Maple Heights, OH 44137) appears to be mostly an outlet for the rantings of John Avery, who is convinced that (a) the Pope is the Antichrist and (b) the Catholics and the Communists are in league to destroy America. Foaming at the mouth with only the most tenuous connections to reality. An SASE would probably net you a selection.

•**Anticopyright** bills itself as "a distribution service to spread agitational and generally scurrilous art/flyposters". You can get more details by writing to them at 30 Piercefield Place, Adamsdown, Cardiff, Wales.

•**The Anti-Socialist Party** (PO Box 523, Columbia Station, OH 44028-0523) has a set of four political posters available for 2 25¢ stamps. They look at things like drugs and racism, with one concluding "The surest way to abolish racism is to abolish the cesspool that spawned it: *society*."

•**Archie McPhee** (PO Box 30852, Seattle, WA 98103) have a new catalog out, now with full-color covers. If you don't know them, these folks stock tacky gift and souvenir items, Day of the Dead statuettes, Russian microscopes, lawn flamingoes, and probably the largest assortment of rubber and plastic animals anywhere. $2 for the catalog is a bargain, and buying stuff from it is even more fun. THe giant squeak tomato worms were a real hit at my brother's wedding.

•**BAD Brigade** (PO Box 1323, Cambridge, MA 02238) is the Boston Anarchist Drinking Brigade, distributors of various posters. They recently sent me a bunch of anti-voting propaganda, suitable for a phone pole near you. An SASE should bring samples.

•**Blackbird** (PO Box 8607, Scottsdale, AZ 85252) offers all sorts of high-tech looking t-shirts with pictures of warplanes on them. Probably a request would land their flyer.

•**Black Rose** (PO Box 2684, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130) continues to organize anarchist lectures for the Boston area. Drop them a line to find out what's coming up.

•**Brooks & Flynn** (PO Box 2639, Ronert Park, CA 94927-2639) sell all manner of products intended for coloring and painting textiles. Besides the product information, their catalog contains basic instructions on batik, silk painting, tie-dye, and other techniques. $3.50 will get you a copy.

•**CAUTION 20,000 OHMS** is the caption on a bright orange industrial warning sticker available for $1 from Karl Johanson (4129 Carey Road, Victoria, BC, V8Z 4G5, CANADA), which includes a silhouette of a guy getting struck by lightning. If you don't understand the joke, it's not for you. Karl also writes "I'm looking for people willing to trade a few copies of their zine for my nifty tubes of bright orange mimeograph ink. I usually trade two tubes for a year's sub".

•**The Center For Action** (711 Yucca St., Boulder City, NV 89005) is the latest brainchild of Bo Gritz, the most decorated Green Beret commander of the Vietnam War. He's made contact with the major heroin lords in southeast Asia, and they're willing to stop growing the stuff in return for a rather small amount of economic aid. Yes, it's a bribe, but (if true) it would be a whole lot cheaper than "The War On Drugs." The Center For Action has been formed to pressure Congress to supply this aid; you can call them for more details at 1-800-293-3900.

•**Community Capital Bank** (PO Box 404920, Brooklyn, NY 11240) has passed a significant regulatory hurdle in its quest to become a socially responsive community bank in New York. Their charter was approved, and now they're trying to raise $6 million in capital by selling stock at $25 a share, with a minimum of $5000 per person buying. Write for their offfering circular if you have this sort of money to invest in being socially responsible.

•**Community Service** is the caption on a postcard available for a stamp and an age statement from Mondo Tofu (222 S. College Ave., Oxford, OH 45056). It features a computer enhanced collage of Ollie North and an erect penis. I'm not sure the Post Office will let this be sent as a postcard, but it does make a strong statement.

•Got a small pile of stickers from **C.O.N. Artists** (c/o Phil Franklin, 33A Bow St. #1, Somerville, MA 02143). These include a dog about to attack a television and a hand-colored atom bomb blast. 25¢ & a stamp gets you two stickers.

•**The Country Music Catalog** features collectible items and souvenirs from country-land, as well as records and tapes for sale. For your copy, write to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum at 4 Music Square East, Nashville, TN 37203.

•**Custom Caps of America** (PO Box 481, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062-0481) sells custom-imprinted caps with prices starting at $6.50 each in small lots and declining to $2.65 each for 1000 or more. If you need a promo cap for your project, drop 'em a line.

•**Dadata** (PO Box 33, Stillwater, PA 17878) continues to crank out the marginal posters, available for an SASE. The latest offerings include an inflammatory ad for the Art Strike and a dialogue between Winnie the Pooh and Charles Baudelaire.

•**THE DAILY** is the campus newspaper at the University of Washington, with a different editor every day of the week. The Monday editor, Devin Smith, thinks things need improving, and would be interested in running pieces from **FF** readers that show "original thought". He's already started bombarding the poor students with Bob Black texts. You can contact him at 4005 15th Ave. NE #108, Seattle, WA 98105.

•**Don's College** is a satirical project of Donald Busky (7393 Rugby St., Philadelphia, PA 19138-1236). For a couple of bucks you can get the course catalog (combining socialism and the hard sciences), sample lectures (one on the immorality of Snell's law) and more.

•**Earth Care Paper, Inc.** is the best supplier of recycled paper that I've been able to find; they can get you reams of bond and computer paper as well as notepads and greeting cards and wrapping paper. If you write they'll send you a catalog: PO Box 3335, Madison, WI 53704.

•**Eleutheros Prod.** (PO Box 141, Bearsville, NY 12409) has issued several new one-page posters. The first offers sales of such things as Confusion, cancer and meaningless existence, thanks to our society. There's a very situationist feel to the thing. The second is a recruiting poster for the global production apparatus: "Work Now/Die Later". Try an SASE for your copy.

•**The Emergency Committee for Political Prisoners** (PO Box 28191, Washington, DC 20038-8191) is the support group for the "Resistance Conspiracy" case, which they claim is a politically-motivated prosecution. For more information, send them an SASE.

•**ERASER CARVERS QUARTERLY** is on its way, and looking for subscribers and contributors. For a copy of the announcement, send a 25¢ stamp to 205 Myron Rd., Syracuse, NY 13219-1225; for the first issue, send $2.

•**Chris Estey** has announced that his persona is dead, and that he won't be here for the underground to kick around any more.

•**Far Reaches** (PO Box 151, Curlew, WA 99118) appears to be a marketing co-op for a number of cottage industries in the Pacific Northwest. This is one stop shopping for wooden toys, ceramics, bodycare products, and more. $1 will get you their current catalog.

•**"Featurettes"** are a product of the North American Precis Syndicate. These are the sort of thing you find as filler in smalltown newspapers: facts about the onion, tips for home camcorder use, the importance of good lighting in your kitchen, poaching a roast. FF reader Chris Martin has accumulated a stock of these fool things, and will send you a packet for a 10x13 SASE—the more postage,

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the more Featurettes. You can contact Chris at 2108A Jefferson Park Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

•**FIGMENT** (PO Box 35666, Moscow, ID 83843-0477) is looking for SF and fantasy stories and artwork for upcoming issues. Send an SASE for their guidelines or $3.95 for a sample issue.

•**F.R.E.D.** (36 Erskine Dr., Morristown, NJ 07960) is the Fifth Religious Erisian Disorganization. They have a variety of Discordian texts available by mail; send an SASE for their catalog. The latest, "Artifacts From hell". has some feeling of cut-up craziness to it.

•**Graphic Gratification Update** (Chris Duffy, PO Box 91, Makanda, IL 62958) is Chris's latest catalog of adult and underground comics, or rathe the new additions to his catalog. SASE should land a copy.

•**The Herculoids Fact Sheet** comes from the folks at **A CASUAL CARTOON REVIEW** (511 Warwick Ave., Warwick, RI 02888) for an SASE. If you want to know who did the film editing for this cartoon series, or the voice of Gloop and Gleep, it's all here.

•**Horizon Unlimited** (PO Box 766, Cambridge, MA 02142) is the home of King Nenslo I and purveyor of Master-Control Programming, apparently the latest in a line of SubGenoid flavored rant/faiths. SASE for more info.

•**The Hospitality Exchange** (116 Coleridge St., San Francisco, CA 94110) is a group of folks around the world (about 250 strong) who make crash space available to each other when people are traveling. Members get a periodically updated address listing and the satisfaction of knowing they can meet real people when they move around the country or the world. An SASE will get you info; remember, you have to be willing to put up guests as well as to be one to participate.

•**Ill-Vis Rules Productions** has for sale a number of funky "Peace" cards, printed in maroon and blue on silvery cardstock and with a batch of mystical symbols on the back. $1 each, 3 for $2, in cash from PO Box 1421, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

•**The IMWU** (PO Box 1162, San Francisco, CA 94101) is the International Music Workers Union, and it continues to turn out posters. One of the latest features quotes from Pete Townsend on censorship and fascism. Glasnost and mail art, continued government sales of cocaine, and advanced Andean civilizations are other topics discussed. They also promote a variety of events in the SF bay area, and have contacts aroiund the world. An SASE should get you some samples. While I'm talking about the IMWU, let me note that there seems to be a definite upswing in smear tactic rumors directed against Ron Gould, Union founder. Now, Ron and I have had our differences in the past, and we still have disagreements in the present. Other people have had run-ins with him as well. But whatever the facts of these encounters, I don't see that they justify spreading outright lies about Ron in an attempt to get some sort of revenge.

•**The Intergalactic House of Fruitcakes** (PO Box 235, Williamstown, MA 01267-0235) is still issuing proclamations about the religious practices for the week—they pick a different deity or sacred object every week. Recently it was tree hoppers. Anyhow, you can probably get a sample of their bizarreness for an SASE.

•**The Institute for the Development of Stoned Socialism** has relocated to 600 36th St., Richmond, CA 94805. From their new haunts they continue to issue rants and posters leading people towards the idea of direct contact with reality and alternative political and economic organizations. Send an SASE for some propaganda.

•**Korrupted Distribution** (c/o Kevin Laveau, 14026 Briarwood Dr., Laurel, MD 20708) is looking for new material to advertise and sell via consignment worldwide. There's a punk look about their flyer though no explicit mention of any limits to what they'll take. Send an SASE for more information.

•**John Kurluk** (PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231-6186), "Tarot Reader, Adviser, Spell Caster", has a new catalog of his services out, which includes ads from some other pagans and a bit of commentary on the pagan community. $1 for a copy.

•**KYFHOTech** (PO Box 14603, Madison, WI 53714) sells a variety of things for the technically-inclined libertarian: books, bumper stickers, "Don't Tread on Me" flags, and so on. Catalog on request.

•**Libertarian Microfiche Publishing** (John ZUbe, 7 Oxley St., Berrima, NSW 2577, AUSTRALIA) continues to promote microfiche as an affordable way to keep books in print and available to everyone, even though in years of publicity John doesn't seem to have garnered many fellow enthusiasts. But he keeps on, and his list of literature available on microfiche itself fills four microfiche.

•**Elaine Long** (PO Box 174, Richland, GA 31825) is working on a book about the beliefs of occultists of various stripes, presented in their own words, to counteract misinformation in the media and law enforcement worlds. If you have anything that might be suitable for reprinting in such a work, she asks that you get in touch.

•**His Holiness the Right Honorable Humphrey C. Luego** (PO Box 8634, St. Joseph, MO 64508-9996), Master of Judeo-Venusian NeuroCosmetology, is available for consultation and Chakra Vibration Language Therapy, Send $1, SASE and a short letter, poem or other personal expression.

•**LUNO** (31960 SE Chin, Boring, OR 97009) is Gene Lehman's Learning Unlimited Network of Oregon. The town may be Boring but Gene isn't, putting out dozens of phonetic games and riddles and writing clever essays on education and related topics. Send him a buck for some samples.

•**Macrocosm USA** (S.L. Brockway, PO Box 969, Cambria, CA 93428) is a planned "educational primer and resource guide for the 90's". They're looking for material on vital topics, challenges and changes, people and organizations who are making a difference. If you think you should be listed, send an SASE for more information.

•Francois Duvivier of **METRO RIQUET** (18 Allée des orgues de flandre, Bte 394, 75019 Paris, FRANCE) writes "I don't receive enough visual stuff for **METRO RIQUET** (international mag written in English/French) and would like to get more performance art, photos, activist art, any work which has a psychic intensity, an essence of madness or something personal out of the ordinary". Send work (with IRCs if you want it returned); all contributors get the magazine free.

•**Mondo World of Merchandise** (1116 Pine St., Philadelphia) is a new store of toys, comics, wrestling, music, shirts, records, and other "obscure items for the more worldly".

•**Bucky Montgomery** is an artist available for commission, whose work has appeared in numerous places from **HEAVY METAL** to **SCAVENGERS NEWSLETTER**. For a sample flyer of his work, send your address to 692 Calero Ave., San Jose, CA 95123.

•**The Murder Can Be Fun 1990 Datebook** ($2 from John Marr, PO Box 640111, San Francisco, CA 94109) is a year-end tradition by now, a collection of 365 nasty events in history, one for each day of the year. Steamship collisions, mass executions, mutinies, massacres, self-immolation, disasters...it's all here. Each page leads off with a curmudgeonly quote. 56 pages, with space for you appointments and notes.

•**NATO** is an artist whose work appears to consist primarily of performances given in the nude with a young lady (also nude) perched on his shoulders. No doubt there is something very deep here, and his literature tries to explain this as a matter of using flesh as canvas, but it looks pretty silly to me. More details from BP 221, 75024 Paris Cedex 01, FRANCE.

•**The New Science Fiction Alliance** is a publishers' consortium in the UK, which is making both UK and US SF zines available from one central address. It appears that they will sell to US addresses as well as UK ones, so this could be a good central source for zines. Try sending a couple of IRCs to find out more, from Chris Reed, 16 Somersall Lane, Chesterfield, S40 3LA, UK.

•**NOCIRC** is the National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers (PO Box 562, Lakehurst, NJ 08733-0562. They've recently compiled a guide for anti-circumcision activists for 1990, to coordinate letter-writing campaigns and the like. It's full of addresses of groups both for and against circumcision. For a couple of bucks donation they should send you a copy.

•**NOW WHAT** (201 Evergreen St. #2-2A, Vestal, NY 13850-2761) is looking for writers, comics artists and anyone else who can help pump up this music zine as they move to national distribution.

•**Ben Obina** (2 Steeles Ave. W, Box 125, Thornhill, ONT, L4J 1A1, CANADA) is distributing a 12-page manuscript of his conversation with a "cosmic informant", somewhat in the Streiber mode of dealing with UFOs. Don't know what he wants for a copy, but I would think a buck should be sufficient.

•**Omnific Designs West** is trying to organize a new group for couples interested in sharing love and relationships but not swapping partners in Southern California. You can contact them at PO Box 459, San Dimas, CA 91773.

•**P.I.N.K.** (4 25¢ stamps or $1 to cover postage from Shane Paul, PO Box 14450, Phoenix, AZ 85063) comes with booklet, postcards & stickers. [Shane requested I *not* review his latest production, merely note its existence].

•**Polymath Systems** (PO Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701) administrates and scores several tests of high intelligence including general symbolic and spatial reasoning. These tests are used for admission by groups including the Triple Nine Society and the Four Sigma Society. Either the Langdon Adult Intelligence Test or the Four Sigma Qualifying Test are available for $10 (including scoring); for $8 you can get a copy of the Vocabulary Gradient Test, designed to measure your familiarity with the most common 400,000 or so words in the English language. They'll probably send you their order form, including other products, for an SASE.

•**POSTCARD SLUT** (260 38th St. #2, Oakland, CA 94611) is Hal Palmer's continuing series of explicit photos, humor, condom ratings, and tabloid news stories on brightly-colored postcards. Send a buck for samples.

•**Postcard Stories** #4 and #5 are available for $1 each, or the complete set of 5 for $3.50, from Surplus Wyvern Press, PO Box 17642, Portland, ME 04101. #4 is Avram Davidson's "Benny and George", an amusing crime story which makes good use of Portland as a locale. #5 is Robert Frazier's "Necessary Deletions", a computer-flavored cyberpunk tale.

•**Poster Mail Auction Co.** (Elaine & R. Neil Reynolds, Box 133, Waterford, VA 22190) holds regular auctions of original vintage and collectible posters, from WWI on forward. You can get their next 4 profusely-illustrated catalogs for $10.

•**PUNKPALS** is a new service for those who like new music. Send your name, address, list of favorite bands and a general comment, along with 2 25¢ stamps, to Robert Brown, 2331 Blake St. #204, Berkeley, CA 94704. He'll send back a list of potential correspondents.

•**PUNK PARENTS DIGEST** (2826 H St., Sacramento, CA 95816) is a planned zine looking for contributions for folks who want to raise their kids the alternative ways. Broad categories for submissions include "Hospitals: Why they suck", "Schools: Why they suck" and "Daycare: Why working sucks!"

•**Rapture Postcards** are 25¢ each or $22 per 100 from the Bible Believers' Evangelical Association, Route 3, Box 92, Sherman, TX 75090. They show a modern metropolis on that fateful day, with cars crashing hither and thither as the occupants are called to their heavenly reward.

•**Real Goods** (966 Mazzoni St., Ukiah, CA 95482) stock an amazing variety of alternative energy products—12-volt Christmas lights, composting toilets, PV, water and wind power, wringer washers, toys, you name it...They also seem to be neat people and their catalogs are a joy to read. For $20 you can get on their mailing list for a year, which includes their 300-page perfect-bound sourcebook, 3 catalogs and sale prices.

•**The Red Rose Collection** (PO Box 1859, Burlingame, CA 94011-1859) offers "Products for empowering people". This includes clocks shaped like pyramids, "Teach Only Love" mugs, water filter units, and flute recordings. Cover price on this new agey catalog is $1.

•**Research Projects Corp.** (Pomperaug Ave., Woodbury, CT 06798) offers a huge number of mailing lists at $40 per thousand names, with a $150 minimum. These range from 3400 Abbatoirs & Slaughterhouses to 300,000 Wealthy Women, and in size up to 80 million home addresses, sorted in many ways. I expect I'm in their files somewhere, and so are you.

•**Rosetta** (PO Box 4611, Berkeley, CA 94704-1611) is a source of information on ethnobotany, with a variety of archival resources available. They also sell a selection of specially-blended teas. SASE for more information.

•**T.S.** (PO Box 889, Spokane, WA 99210-0889) will send a list of sources for erotica and nudist material worldwide for $5 and an age statement. That seems a bit steep for 4 pages, but on the other hand, this is information that it's tough to compile from anywhere else.

•**Sigorshal Kod-A Ministries** is engaged in some sort of shadowy secret project to stamp out secular humanism and bring a resurgence in longings for the perfect society. For more information, contact Mr. Breakfast, 103 Wheeler, Toronto, ONT, M4L 3V3, CANADA.

•**Skull Art** is a project of Butch (1425 W. Southern #10-2-13, Tempe, AZ 85282). He'll send you an envelope full of photocopied skulls, skeletons and other morbid subjects for $1.50.

•**The Small Press Action Network** (c/o Normal Art Society, Box 65746, Station F, Vancouver, B, V5N 5K7, CANADA) "is a non-profit decentralised network of independent publishers" combining their forces for marketing events. For more information (at least if you're Canadian) try an SASE.

•**The Sorcerer's Apprentice Fighting Fund** (6/8 Burley Lodge Rd., Leeds LS6 1QP, ENGLAND) has been set up to try to combat disinformation in the British media on the subject occultists, pagans, witches and other practitioners of alternative religions. It's being administered by Chris Bray, who has been very ill-treated himself at the hands of the fundamentalists and their lackeys.

•**The South American Explorers Club** (PO Box 18327, Denver, CO 80218) stocks a large number of books on South America, and offers various travel-related services. Members get discounts, access to trip reports, and other bonuses.

•**Speed Racer** official bumper stickers (authorized, not bootleg) are available for $1 & an SASE from Drumbeat Productions, 231 E. 29 St., New York, NY 10016. If you want 50 or more, a discount can be arranged.

•**Springhouse Naturals** (PO Box 27743, Philadelphia, PA 19150) offers a variety of imported natural-fiber clothing, including wool sweaters from Nepal and cotton ones from Mexico. Catalog on request.

•**Swago T-Shirts** (648 NE 40th Ct., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334) specializes in television images, including Underdog sweatshirts and David Letterman boxer shorts. Try an SASE for their current price list.

•**SWORD OF SHAHRAZAD** (PO Box 152844, Arlington, TX 76015-2844) is holding their second annual fiction contest, with a theme of "Romantic Love" and a length of 2000 words or less. SASE for guidelines and contest rules. $50 first prize.

•**The Telegraph Avenue Street Calender 1990** is $5 from Twisted Image, 1630 University Ave. #26, Berkeley, CA 94703. It features photos and captions by B.N. Duncan, who has himself spent time on the streets, and captures a dozen or so of the personalities who stand out in Berkeley's street scene.

•**The Tired of Waiting Committee** (PO Box 1112, Kent, OH 44240) is raising funds to construct a memorial to the students slain at Kent State in 1970 in the face of administrative foot-dragging on the part of the university.

•**Matt Towler** (Sponge Studio, 277 Lake Ave., Worcester, MA 01604) has put together a set of crazy postcards, with hills eating cars, dead cigarettes, alien bull skulls, and more. 50¢ will get you a sample or $2 for all 6. Matt will also send spot illos to any zine that sends him a copy.

•**Twin Rivers Press** (PO Box 119, Ellinton, FL 34222) is compiling biographies and listings for **SMALL PRESS REGISTER** , a directory of writers, editors, poets, artists, publishers and organizations to come out in early 1991. SASE for information and questionnaires.

•**Unicorn Productions** (S. Dorne, 250-9 Summer St., Plantsville, CT 06479) is out with a set of five postcards from Tisch (editor of **HORIZONS UNLIMITED**), available for $1 postpaid per set. They feature suggestive but not explicit drawings of women in rather typical male fantasy poses.

•**The Urgentrification Project** (Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110) is seeking to explore the relationship between artists and gentrification, and find ways for artists to make positive contributions in potential gentrification situations.

•**WD Press** (PO Box 24115, St. Louis, MO 63130) is in contact with Coordinadora, the Spanish longshoreman's union, via fax. They offer to send out translations of the latest strike news as it arrives. Send $1 to get on the mailing list.

•**The Wiccan/Pagan Press Alliance** (PO Box 1392, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055) is trying to become a resource for publishers of zines concerned with "a positive life path". They're planning a mailing of material from members of the network very soon. Drop 'em a line for membership information.

•**X-CESS America** is a new project designed to stamp out, or at least point out, excessiveness in this country. For $1 you get a sheet of ten X-Cess America stickers, which you are free to use and copy and distribute however you like. Write to X-Cess, 888 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222.

•**Bob Z.'s** postering case finally made its way through the NY State Supreme Court, and the fines were knocked down from $3700 to $300 on a techincality. Unfortunately the law remains intact. STOP-GRO will continue to fight it, and you can contact them at 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010.

★★★★★

FACTSHEET FIVE PROJECTS

•I now have available for other publishers a list of distributors and stores who would like to see new zines for possible sale. This includes all the folks who sell FF, whether directly or to stores, and with as many details as possible on what they want and what their terms are as I know. Send me an SASE (be sure to tell me what it's for!) and I'll send you a copy.

•The collected **WHY PUBLISH?** book, including most of the words published on this subject in the first 30 issues of **FF**, as well as new material from Miekal And, Joel Biroco, Stewart Brand and Merritt Clifton, is now available for only $3.50 postpaid. Don't miss this; there were only 500 printed and I probably won't do any more.

•The collected book of Anni Ackner's columns is out at last!. The collection is called **NOBODY LOVES A VISUAL ARTS CRITIC**, and it features all of her writings from FF, as well as four new columns (unavailable elsewhere), an introduction by Elayne Wechsler and graphics by Freddie Baer. 134 pages long, you can get a copy book rate for $4, or first class for $5.50. 75% of the profits are going to Anni, so I'd really like to sell a lot of these. Think what they'll be worth in twenty years when she's a wealthy mainstream author.

•**FACTSHEET FIVE** T-Shirts, designed by Freddie Baer, are now available for a measley $8.50 postpaid. The only color available is yellow, but it's a yellow that will knock your eyes back into your skull, not some wimpy pastel color. Well, actually, the second edition is a bit wimpier (so you early buyers, you have a collectors' item!), but still beautiful. Specify size or we'll send you whatever we feel like. Think of the possibilities for starting a conversation!

•I now have a new set of **FACTSHEET FIVE** ads available, also typeset and put together by Freddie Baer. In the future I may swap or pay for some of these to be published, but meanwhile if you want to give me a free plug write and I'll send you a copy.

•I am still offering the **FACTSHEET FIVE** mailing list on self-adhesive labels. This issue's list of around 3600 names is available for $130. If you prefer, you can get the list on plain paper for $100. I can also provide specialty lists (all fanzines, all distributors, all music zines, all artists, or most anything else you can come up with) for 5¢ a name on labels or 3¢ a name on paper.

•I am also prepared to offer the mailing list on IBM-PC compatible DSDD diskettes. The mailing list is archived on one diskette and I'll include the shareware DBMS I use (PC-FILE+) on three more diskettes. *You must have a hard disk to access the FF mailing list!* If you are interested in getting the actual text of the zine on diskette, please contact me to discuss appropriate hardware and software, or check the FF BBS. You can get the mailing list set for $18.

•If anyone doesn't want their name given out on mailing labels or diskette, please let me know.

•The **FF ZINE EXCHANGE** has been a great success this past quarter, and there's more good stuff than ever to be had for free. Zine Editors: If you're at all interested in having samples of your zine go to people who don't even know you exist, send as many as you want to me to distribute. The rest of you: Send me an SASE with 25¢ to $2.40 postage and I'll stuff it with whatever I have laying about ($2.40 is enough to mail a couple of pounds in the country, so use a decent-sized envelope [10x13 is a good size]: two pounds is about 8 issues of FF, OK?). You should also take a look at a rate chart; while $2.40 will cover postage on two pounds, $2.30 is only enough for eleven ounces. I'd recommend springing for the full two pounds. You might also take note of three similar offers:

Dallas Swan's (PO Box 270, Horntown, VA 23395) offer to fill up large SASEs with as many zines as they will hold;

Jim Testa's (151 First Ave., Box A., New York, NY 10003) Demo Xchange of band demo tapes, also available for a few dollars postage;

and Rosemary West's (PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346) offer of personalized computer-generated poetry for 50¢ an ounce, up to five pounds—send your name and the names of a few friends to assure personalization.

$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
QUESTION:
A loser in a war with chance-selected winners is just as dead as a loser in a winnerless war and losing 100 men isn't as bad as losing 200. Why don't you let Reagan and Andropov run the show?
ANSWER:
SUICIDAL WARS SPAWN SUICIDAL WARS.
To end wars or 90% of them shoot a SASE at: WIN LOSE
Box 2243
YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504
$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$

Anyhow, remember, send a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to minimize the work I have to do. I mean it. The next person who sends a blank envelope and a check, instead of buying the stamps himself and pasting them on, is going to get something nasty in the mail. If he gets anything at all. OK, OK, I'll make an exception for those of you in foreign countries: just send me a check or cash and a self-addressed envelope and I'll do the rest. Those out of the country can supply up to $4.50 worth of postage, since the rates are higher. Those in the country should stop using such obviously glued stamps or I'm going to start pitching your envelopes in the trash. *This hbs already happened to some people stupid enough to ignore what I've said! Use mint stamps only!!* (Look, it's OK to glue down un-used stamps; what I'm upset about it people putting the glue over the top of them so they can be re-used. If this doesn't make sense to you, call me). And please be patient; the overflow zines have been displaced to the attic by the archives, and so I only stuff envelopes once every week or two. I take longer when it's cold up there. And right now, I'm way, way behind (about two months) on stuffing envelopes. Please understand that this is a low priority for me, since I'm doing it for free; publishing the magazine and occasionally sleeping come first.

A few clarifications about the Zine Exchange: No, I am not going to send you any back issues of **FACTSHEET FIVE**. No, you may not request a specific zine you saw reviewed here; that copy is in the archives, and that's where it's staying. You can request a specific type of zine, but often I cannot fill requests; it depends on what's been sent to me recently for distribution.

•I put together an index to each issue, usually about a 24-page pamphlet. If you want to see a copy, send me $1.50. To get it every issue, you should sign up for a library rate subscription.

•**HOW TO PUBLISH A FANZINE** is my first book. In it I reveal darned near everything I've learned in ten years of small publishing, from production through printing and binding to the mails to promotion and financing. It's 91 pages perfect-bound, published by Loompanics, but I'll send you a copy of your very own—autographed even—for $6 postpaid if you buy it from me.

GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing away for fanzines:

•If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine has odd payment requirements, I try to note this in the address section of the listing. In general, cash is preferable to money orders which are preferable to checks.

•On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the zine editors didn't list a price.

•I list single copy rates whenever I can find them, otherwise I try to indicate how many issues your subscription covers. If I put something like "$10/yr" it means I can't tell how many issues come out in a year.

•If I separate issue numbers with a dash, they're single issues; a slash indicates two-in-one issues. So, for example, "#7-11/12" indicates that I received #7, a double issue containing #11 and #12, and everything in between. Prices given are for one issue, not for a set of all the issues reviewed, unless otherwise indicated.

•On zines with a price under $1, it really helps to include a few stamps for postage. "SASE" means self-addressed stamped envelope: #10 with 25¢ postage unless otherwise specified.

•Don't send loose coins in an envelope. If you want to send coins, tape them to an index card and wrap a piece of paper around that. And remember that there's a postal surcharge on envelopes more than 1/4 inch thick.

•Canadians generally don't mind receiving U.S. funds, but for other countries you should think about alternative payment. Foreign currency is available at larger banks, and IRCs (International Reply Coupons, which can be exchanged for stamps almost anywhere in the world) at your post office. Foreign MOs are also available from the post office, but can take forever to get. Sending checks to other countries is not a good idea; bank exchange charges can be outrageous.

•"Age Statement" means that you should send along a signed note saying that you're over 18 (or over 21, if you are) to help the publisher avoid legal hassles associated with distributing sexually-explicit material.

•"The Usual" refers to the traditional method of obtaining SF fanzines without sullying oneself with cash. Generally this includes trading other zines, writing locs, contributing articles or art, or being recipient of a whim. These days $1 is often accepted as the equivalent to these more active approaches.

•I'd appreciate it if you'd mention **FACTSHEET FIVE** when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.

•If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers in cases of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.

•If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys hearing comments on the zine he has sent you. This is especially true if you didn't like it; we all like to improve. Even a simple note of thanks can make a publisher's day, though.

•Many zine publishers print small quantities, so you may not be able to get the exact issue that I reviewed. If you must have that particular issue, say so, and be prepared to pay extra. Otherwise it's best just to request the most recent or the next issue and save trouble for everyone. And be patient; if the current issue is all gone, it may take a while.

•And since it may take a while, the envelope your order came in may get lost. Make sure your address is on the letter itself! Otherwise you may not get your copy despite the best intentions of the publisher.

•Most zine publishers are willing to exchange their zines for others, so I generally don't mention this in listings unless I know they *don't* swap. But use some discretion—a 150-page typeset music publication is unlikely to swap with a 4-page xeroxed newsletter on Central American farming. And remember, publishers are under no obligation to respond to unsolicited zines, so if you can't afford to give away the copy, don't send it.

STARDIVIDER

ZINES

Sometimes I get publicity for zines without getting copies of the zines themselves. Here's the news on a few items that I haven't read for myself:

•**AMNESIA** (c/o Rex, PO Box 661441, Los Angeles, CA 90066) is planned as a new zine for "global international art, music, performance" and other fields. Now looking for material for publication early in 1990.

•**CLUTTERED MIND** ($4 *CASH* from Pawnee Ribber, PO Box 255, Monticello, NY 12701) will be a blend of comics and articles "about entertainments for those who seek the unusual". #1 will feature Torky Koenings and Tom Ratkov excerpts.

•**FANTASY BASEBALL** ($3.50 from Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990) is a new publication aimed at people who play "Rotisserie" baseball, a sort of statistician's game.

•Kalmbach Publishing Company (PO Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187) sent me flyers for a whole bunch of their magazines: **ODYSSEY** (astronomy for young people), **MINIATURES SHOWCASE, NUTSHELL NEWS** (miniatures making), **DEEP SKY TELESCOPE MAKING, CLASSIC TOY TRAINS, TRAINS, FINE SCALE MODELER, ASTRONOMY, MODEL RAILROADER,** and **TRAINS ILLUSTRATED.** For more info on any of these, send them an SASE.

•**MEZLA** ($4 from N'Chi, PO Box 19566, Cincinnati, OH 45219) is a "Heretical Thelemic Journal", set to make its re-debut on Samhain just past. They promise things from all working magickal systems.

•**THE QUAYLE QUARTERLY** ($3 from PO Box 8593, Brewster Station, Bridgeport, CT 06605) is scheduled to debut in January as "the only periodical in the world solely dedicated to our Vice President."

•**ROLLER SPORTS REPORT** ($10/6 issues from Fred Argoff, 1256 E. 13th St. #C2, Brooklyn, NY 11230-4851)is for folks interested in roller derby and the new figure-8 sport that followed from it.

•**TRAVEL SMART** ($29.95/7 issues from Communications House, Inc., Dobbes Ferry, NY 10522) is a newsletter of inside information for the seasoned traveler.

•**THE TRIUMPH OF FASCISM** ($5 from Tim Donovan, 7 Ashland, Manchester, CT 06040) is a new zine which will investigate the coming authoritarianism and the historical forces leading to the coming failure of democracy. Until the first issue comes out, the $5 will bring you sample literature.

•**WRITERS' JOURNAL** ($3 from PO Box 9418, N. St. Paul, MN 55109) is a bimonthly magazine for writers, with business tips as well as ideas of making your writing better.

THOSE FUNNY NUMBERS

What the little stuff in parentheses after each zine review do is tell you how big the zine is. First comes a letter for the size of the paper, or at least close to it:

A3A3 size, about 11 1/2 by 16 1/4
A4A4 size, about 8 1/4 by 11 1/2
A5A5 size, about 5 3/4 by 8 1/4
DDigest, 5 1/2 by 8 1/2
HLHalf Legal, 7 by 8 1/2 or 4 1/4 by 14
HSHalf Standard, 4 1/4 by 11
LLegal, 8 1/2 by 14
MMini, 4 1/4 by 5 1/2
MMMicro, smaller than mini
OOversized, larger than tabloid or odd-sized
QQuarto, 8 by 10
SStandard, 8 1/2 by 11
TTabloid, usually 11 by 17 on newsprint

Next comes a number, which is the number of pages. Last there may be a suffix: "t" for typeset or laser-printed, or "r" for photo-reduced type.

ADVERTISING

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available as follows:

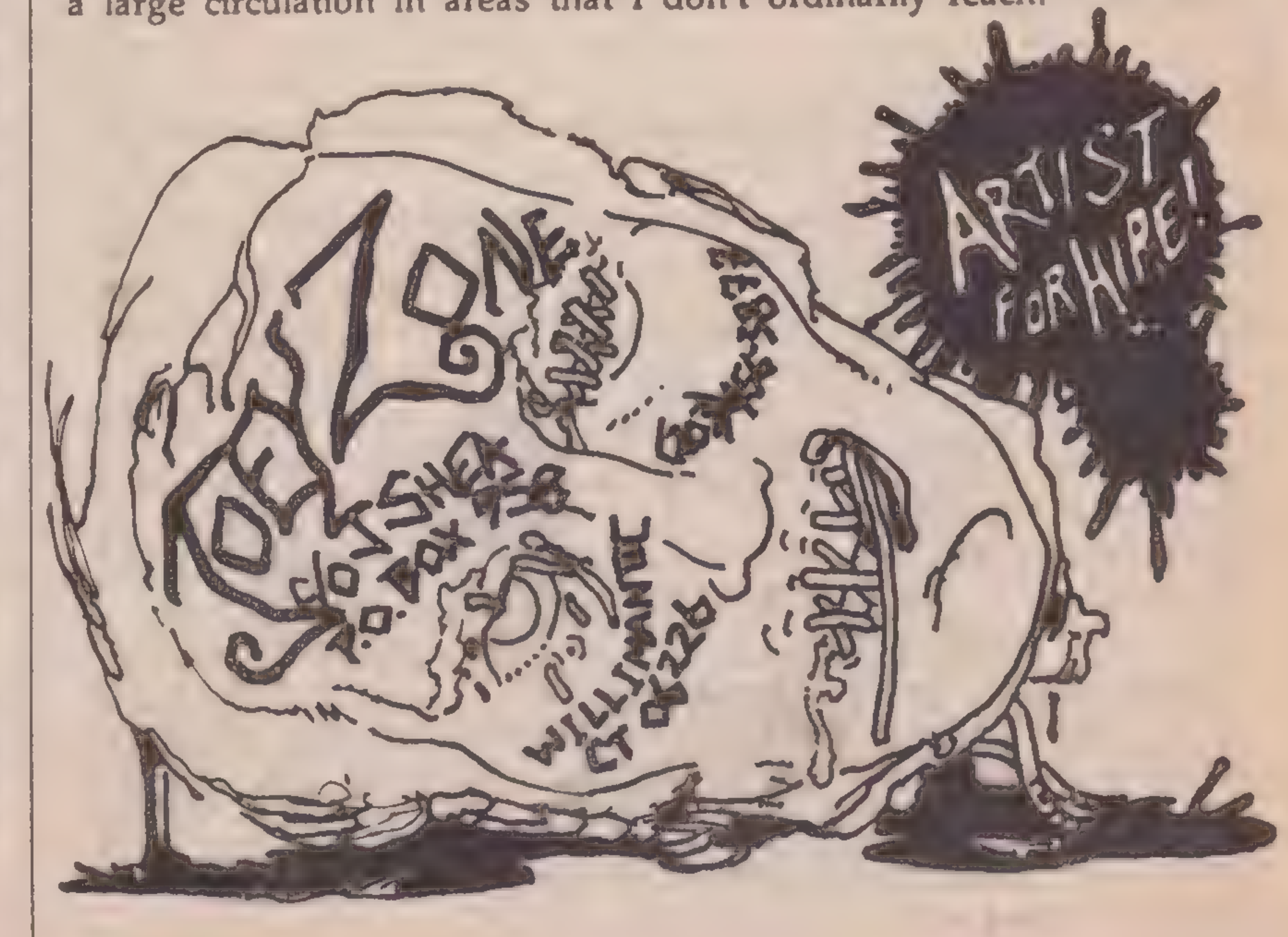
Full Page .7 1/2 by 9 3/4
Half Page .7 1/2 by 4 3/4
Half Page .3 3/4 by 9 3/4
Quarter Page .3 3/4 by 4 3/4
Eighth Page .3 3/4 by 2 1/4
Twelfth Page .2 1/4 by 2

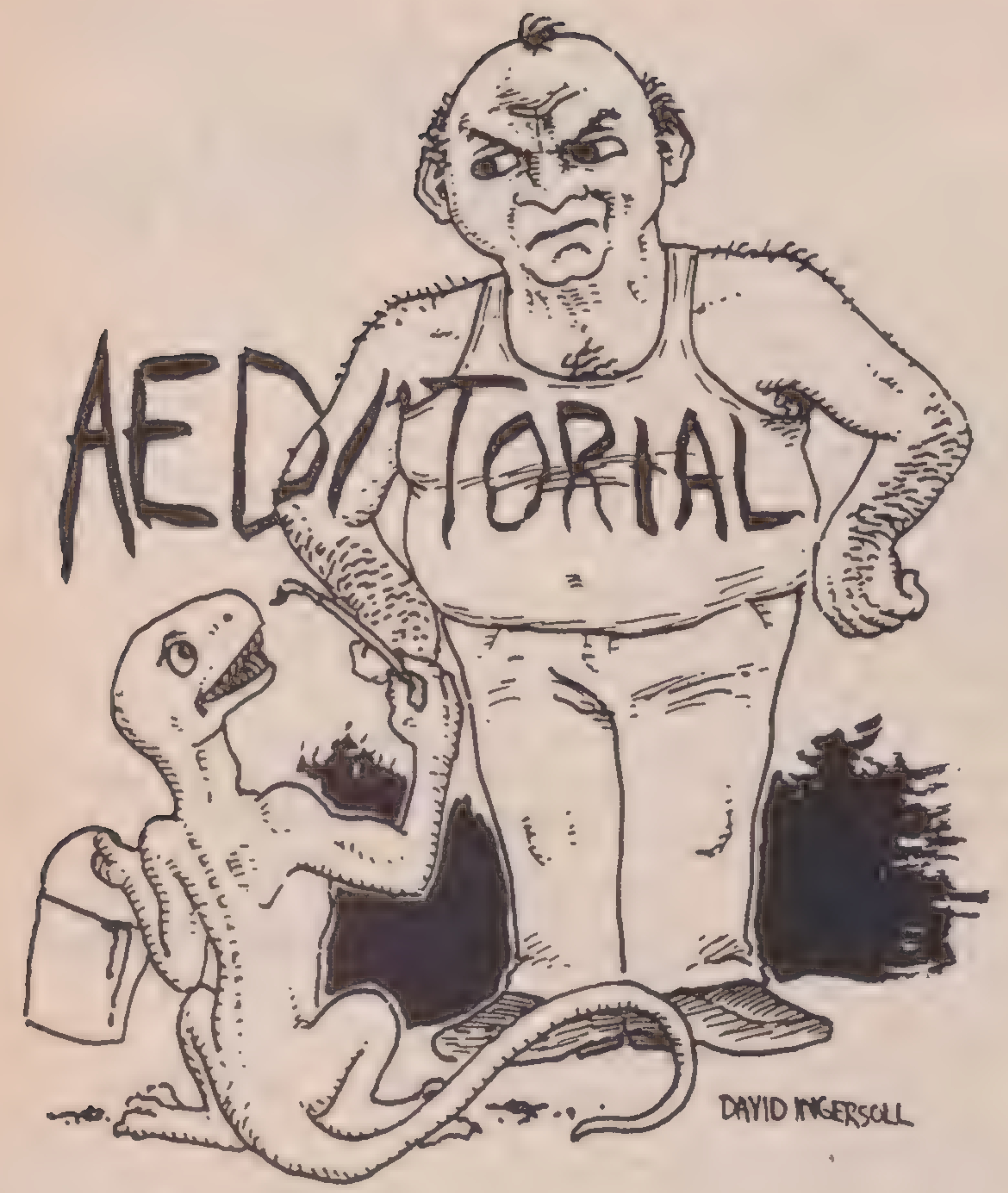
Copy should be submitted as camera-ready, in the size it is to run. For sizes not on the list, please call me. *Please note: a standard business card is an eighth-page ad.* Current rates are as follows:

Back Cover with Second Color .$190.00
Full Page with Second Color .$170.00
Full Page .$145.00
Half Page .$80.00
Quarter Page .$50.00
Eighth Page .$25.00
Twelfth Page .$12.50

Ads which are paid in advance for two or more insertions may take a 20% discount from the above prices—and are protected from price rises during the life of the ad. This discount does not apply to business card sized ads. This discount also does not apply to ads with a second color.

Ad space needing a second color, either back cover or interior, should be reserved with me before sending in copy, as this space is obviously limited. Other ads need not reserve space in advance, though you're welcome to do so. Generally, I do not trade advertising with other publishers, though I make *rare* exceptions for those with a large circulation in areas that I don't ordinarily reach.





First off, I'd like to thank all the wonderful people who have encouraged me to raise the price of this zine enough to survive, and not to feel guilty about it, especially the friendly people at the North Brooklyn Small Press Convention. Special thanks, too, to the people who sent extra money as a way of encouraging me to stay in business. I deeply appreciate this. As you'll have perhaps noticed already, the price rise is happening; **FF** is now $3 per issue. I hope you'll still find this an affordable value. If you really haven't got it, don't hassle the store; write to me and we'll work something out.

From time to time people ask who wrote a particular review in **FF**. The answer is really very simple: if it's not otherwise signed, I wrote it. Yes, I do write a lot. I could probably use some more help. If you live in the Albany area (i.e., close enough to come over here to pick stuff up) and think you can write reviews, get in touch.

There are less categorized zines in this issue than there have been recently. That's because I asked editors and publishers to tell me what (if any) category I should put their stuff under. Most didn't bother, and so got thrown back into the alphabetical listing. I'm going to give this experiment another few issues before deciding whether it's a complete flop.

Another note to the confused: if I review your stuff, you get copies. If you didn't get a copy, tell me. Sometimes the Postal Service screws up. Sometimes I even make mistakes without their help. But we can always work things out.

FACTSHEET FIVE will not be participating in the Art Strike, despite the mountains of theoretical literature singing its praises which have reached my mailbox. Out of Solidarity, though (in the same spirit that keeps union members from crossing picket lines of other unions), I will not be reviewing any products from those who've announced their participation until 1994, when the strike is over.

I'm behind on everything, as usual. Mail is piling up. Copies of my book haven't been shipped lately. The Zine Exchange is backlogged for months. You may note that several things have been dropped from the list of **FF** projects, so that I can concentrate on the core work of producing the zine. If you're interested in taking over distribution of Martti Koski's pamphlet, or the Gemstone File, drop me a line. Indeed, if you think you can handle the Zine Exchange, I might be willing to dump that off as well. Meanwhile, thanks for your patience.

Finally, I want to mention a project I have planned for 1990: the **FF** compilation tape. What I want to do is produce a sort of primer to musical styles: a cut of hardcore, a cut of thrash, a cut of gothic, a cut of experimental, and so on. This would help readers make their way through the music reviews. I'd like some help assembling this compilation; I envision three or four assistant editors for it to find tracks, select them, and write liner notes. If you want to be one of these people, please drop me a line.

See you in two months—or perhaps less, since this issue probably got held up by the Christmas mailing rush. Watch for the **FF** financial report in the February issue.

Lobias Fogcutter
Grinning Idiot Press
PO Box 2001
Whitney, TX 76692

Inviting your correspondance

Not currently publishing, but informally corresponding on pagan theology, logic, the future, politics, eco-war, resources, survival, healing, and gaming.

Blessed Be, *or else.*
Hail Eris.

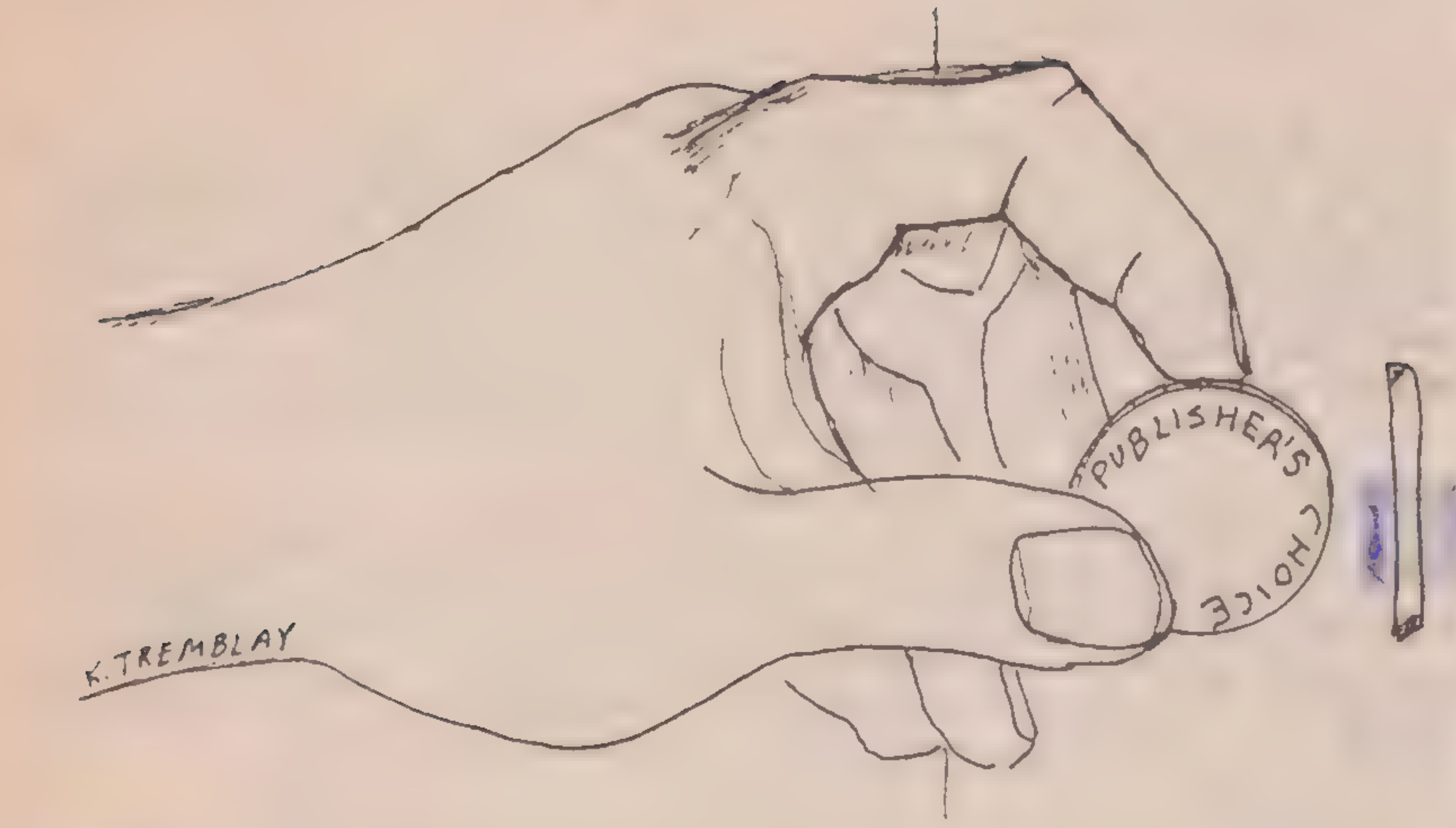
JURY THIS IS THE JURY PANEL (OF 12 USUALLY)* YOU FIND MENTIONED IN THE MEDIA. OUR PETIT JURY IS NOT SMALL IN THE EXTENT OF ITS LAWFUL POWER. IN AMERICA, OUR JURY IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY LEGISLATURE, CONGRESS, OR ANY PRESIDENT. OUR JURY MAY GRANT A PARDON. OUR JURY MAY NULLIFY ANY LAW TO FIND THE ACCUSED INNOCENT. NO KNOWLEDGEABLE JURY MAY BE SUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED BY ANY JUDGE. *NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH GRAND JURY. ARE YOU CURIOUS? SEND $ BILL FOR TREATISE "LADIES & GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY" TO FRANK PEARL, 61 S. JULIAN # FF1, DENVER - CO 80219 OR CALL FOR FREE PACKET OF OTHER INFORMATION TO 303 935 4815.

featured in Factsheet Five #31
- publisher's choice-

Psychedelic Monographs and Essays

Call for Submissions
Art Issue in Focus
40% Art & 60% Articles,Reviews,
surreal,fractal,anamorphic, etc...
computor,psychedelic,photos...

B.Ridge PO Box 1562 Albany NY 12201



2600 Vol. 6 #3 ($18/yr from PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953): "The Hacker Quarterly" has put out another exceptionally good issue, full of information that could actually be useful to those trying to search out the secrets of the phone and computer systems of the country. There's a long article on the computer that does the student records for New York City high schools, obviously written by someone who's been into it. A shorter one discusses "punching", a way to make free local calls from payphones. Unix, an international hacker conference, the latest absurdities of the phone company, long-distance carrier access codes...there's an enormous amount of stuff here. And the people writing this still promote a hacker ethic which is not into simple destruction; rather they encourage exploration and caution. (D-46t)

★★★★★

FREAKBEAT #6 (£3 IMO/CASH from Ivor Trueman, 23 Parkside Road, Houslow, Middlesex, TW3 2BD, UK): A music zine that both covers mainly psychedelic and is psychedelic itself. In addition to the full color covers and centerfold, the latter is enhanced by the fact that every page is printed in two colors—say, red text and full-page blue psychedelic art. A pair of pieces of colored plastic are supplied to make it easier to view all this. Also there are two other pieces of plastic here—a pair of flexidiscs with tunes from six bands including Dimentia 13, The Chemistry Set, and Bargepole. Articles and interviews touch on Twink, The Modds, Marshmallow Overcoat, Thee Hypnotics, and about a dozen more. There's also zine and record reviews, a page on "Zippies" (the latest revision of the Hippie concept—apparently with no relation to the pinhead), and notes on bands covered in previous issues. They also appear quite knowledgeable about classic psychedelia and work it into their zine along with the new stuff. (A4-54r)

★★★★★

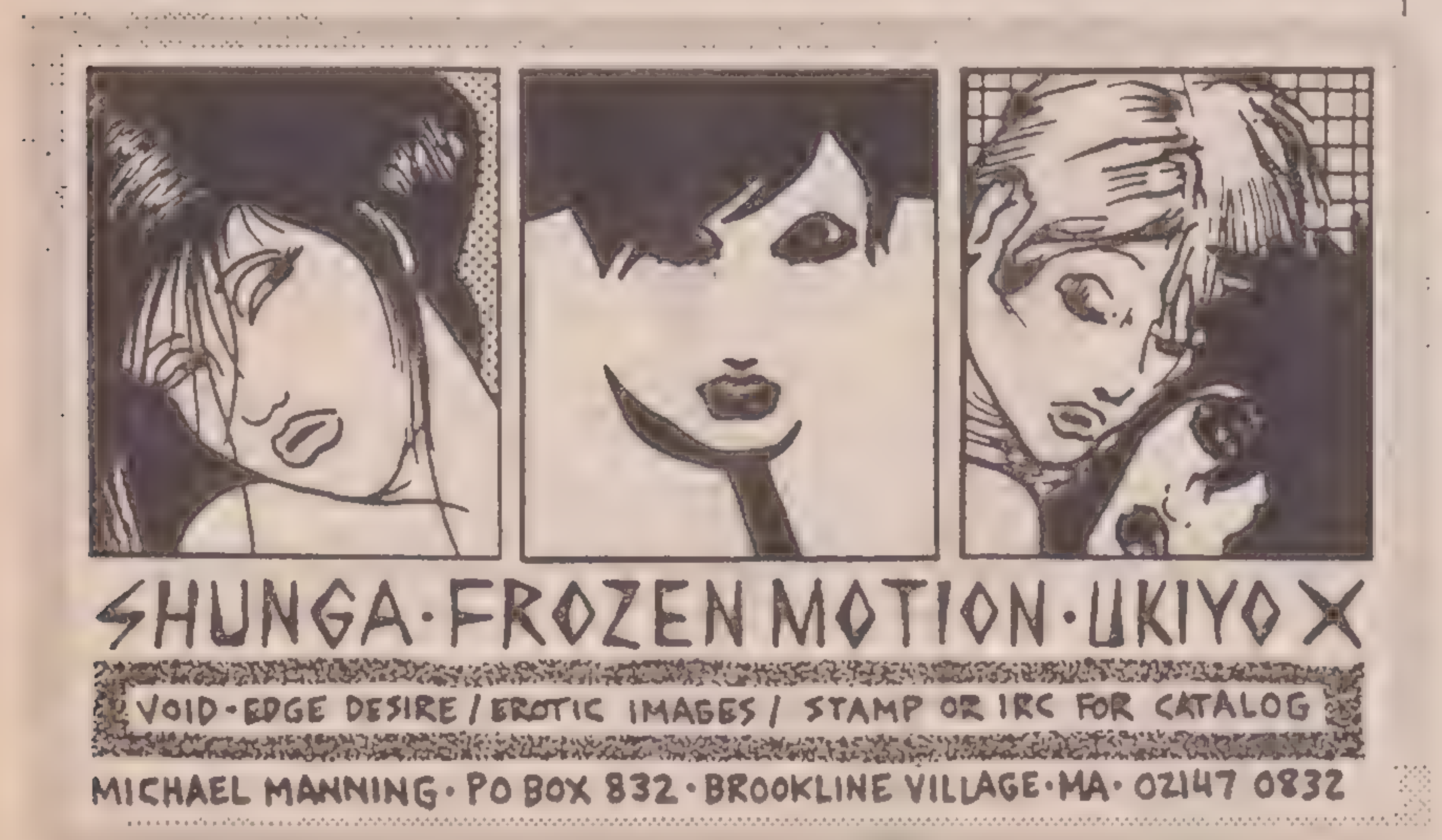
GAJOOB #4 ($2 from Bryan Baker, PO Box 3201, Salt Lake City, UT 84110): I'd been hoping for some time that someone would come along and try to at least keep tabs on cassette culture. Well, GAJOOB seems to have grown to fit the bill. It starts out with a batch of letters from folks like Carl Howard and Al Margolis and Michael Chocholak, then proceeds through interviews and articles to a batch of cassette (only) reviews. Dino DiMuro and Mike Carlson are among the interviewees this time. Bryan has what I think is the right attitude towards reviews—he reviews everything and tries to be informative, going so far as to provide numerical ratings. Meanwhile the corners of the zine are bulging with extras like indie radio coverage and "Stoopid World News". I hope he can keep up the good work. (HL-42t)

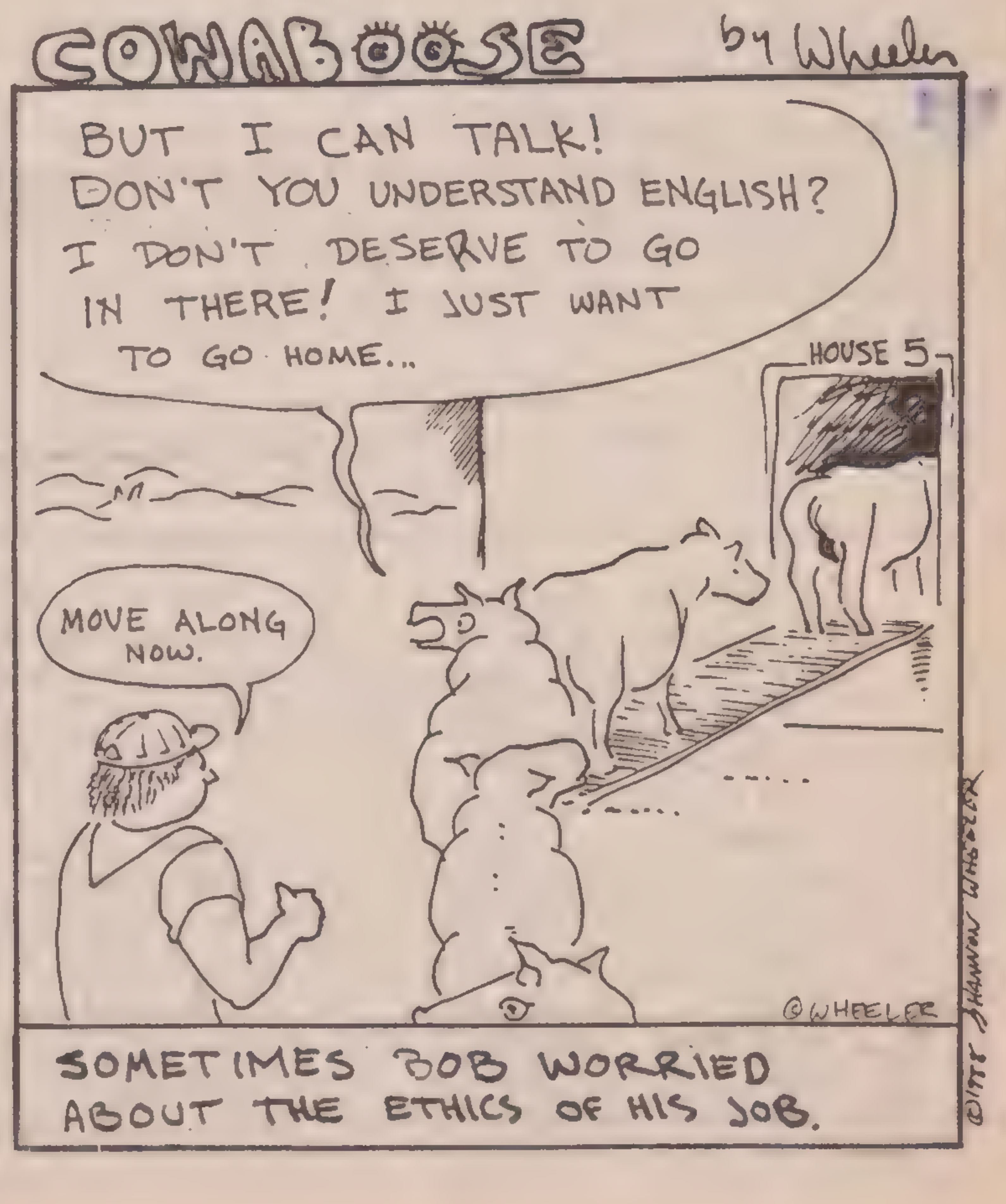
★★★★★

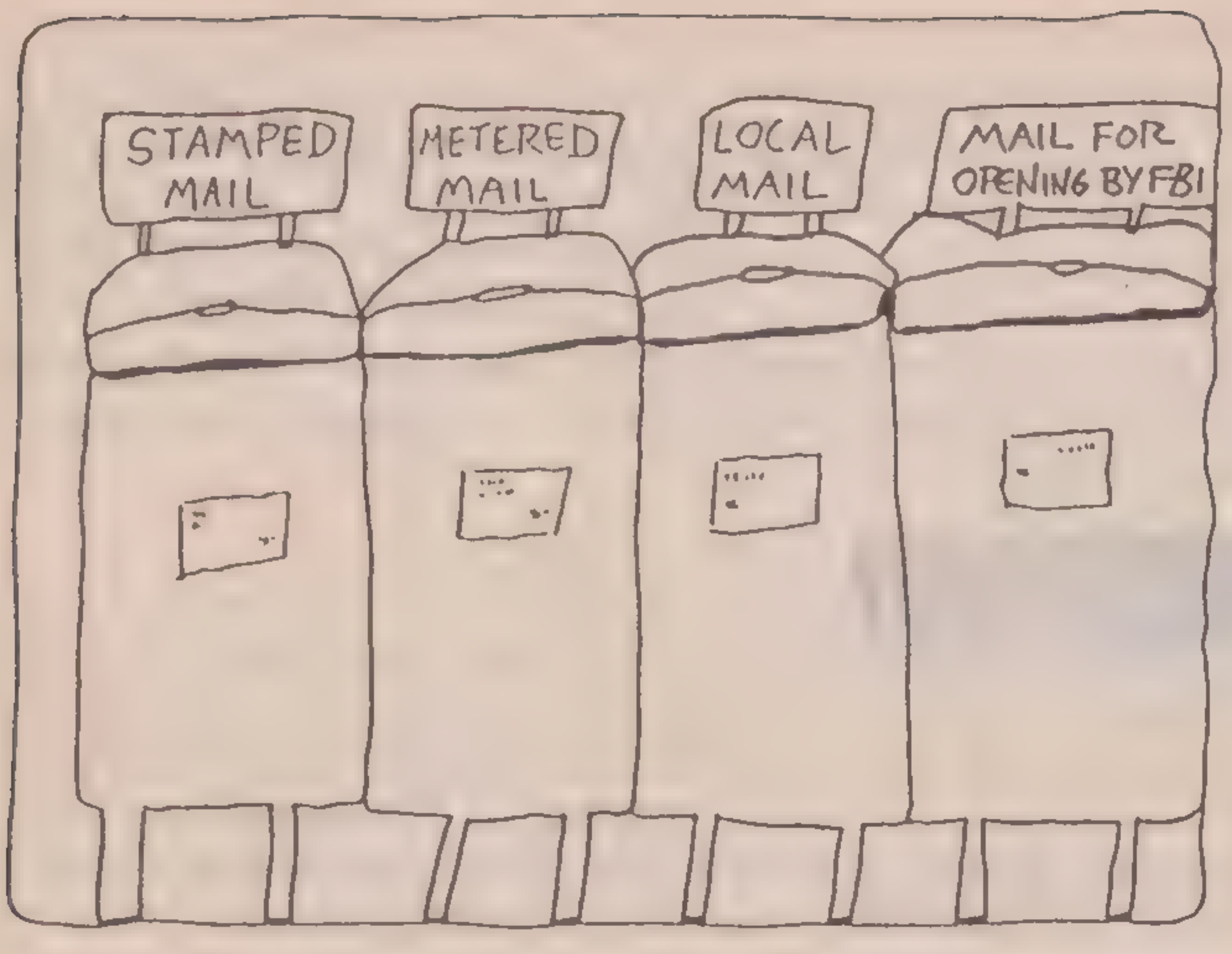
NUDE & NATURAL 9.1-9.2 ($6 from The Naturist Society, PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54902): This one was formerly **CLOTHED WITH THE SUN**, and it's high time I recognized its quality. Naturists are people who believe clothes should be optional and that stripping them off when appropriate is a matter of fundamental rights. With their new name and new look (more color, spiffier layouts), they're doing a lot of outreach on this issue, seeking to show that naturists are not sex-crazed kooks. There's a long chunk of 9.1 that deals with the video media and their treatment of nudity, including some ideas on making naturists better spokespeople for the movement. 9.2 is distinguished by the sensitive photography of Jay Daniel, who does shots of the same people clothed and nude. Many bits of news jostle on these pages, from legal updates to notes on nude beaches around the country and the world. And they're not afraid to debate with their readers on various issues, so the letters column is always fun. (S-120t)

★★★★★

OUT WEST #8 ($2.50 from PO Box 19894, Sacramento, CA 95819): Chuck Woodbury has a job that many would envy: he drives around the Western United States in a motorhome equipped with a desktop publishing setup, and produces this tabloid on his way. It's amazing how many strange and wonderful things are still waiting to be discovered on the back roads there: a giant plaster egg, a high school shaped like a moonbase, jackalopes and furry fish, a red-light museum, a casino built under an Interstate highway...all those and more are in this one issue. Lots of neat photos, journal entries, and news bits make up the bulk of the issue. There's also an extensive letters section and some reviews of other printed matter. A wonderful example of rampant individuality that will either cause you to chuckle or prove that you're dead. (T-44t)


SHUNGA·FROZEN MOTION·UKIYO X
VOID·EDGE DESIRE / EROTIC IMAGES / STAMP OR IRC FOR CATALOG
MICHAEL MANNING·PO BOX 832·BROOKLINE VILLAGE·MA·02147 0832


COWABOOSE by Wheeler
BUT I CAN TALK! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH? I DON'T DESERVE TO GO IN THERE! I JUST WANT TO GO HOME...
HOUSE 5
MOVE ALONG NOW.
©WHEELER
SOMETIMES BOB WORRIED ABOUT THE ETHICS OF HIS JOB.



ZINES

(untitled zine) ($1 (?) from Fitcher & Dave Martinez, PO Box 101, Westford, MA 01886): If there's a title on this thing I sure can't find it. This is definitely a zine, though, since they say there are more issues coming. Inside is stark photocopy art, comics, skateboard pix, enigmatic words, and some political feel. They're looking for more interesting things to publish in the future. (D-20)

★★★★★

INKSLINGERS! #1 ($1 from Rhonda-Lisa Wilk, 2281 Diamond Hill Rd. #K, Woonsocket, RI 02895): A new entry into the world of pen pal zines, where there are a lot more things being published than I realized. Fortunately Rhonda-Lisa sees a lot of them, and puts short reviews in this issue along with pen pal listings. There are also contests and other short features. Ads are free, but no adult material accepted. (D-12)

★★★★★

THE 11TH ST. RUSE Vol. 2 #11-Vol. 3 #1 ($1/4 issues from 322 E. 11th St. #23, New York, NY 10003): A bizarre little journal with a very personal feel, and the persons it feels of are not at all normal. What can you make of an Icelandic travelogue which recommends a "breathtaking view of bobcats and plumbing"? Of a selection of great lines from Poe arranged into a new poem? Well, both may be found in #11. #1 has lentils and flagburners. (S-4)

★★★★★

11X30 Vol. 2 #1 ($1 (?) from Toledo Poets Center, 32 Scott House, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390): A broadsheet of those dimensions, designed to be hung up and admired. This issue is special, celebrating an event designed to pay tribute to Kerouac 20 years after his death, and featuring a piece of previously-unpulished Kerouac writing. (O-1t)

★★★★★

THE 1989 NEW MOON DIRECTORY ($3.65 from Eric L. Watts, 346 Carpenter Dr. #51, Atlanta, GA 30328-5030): A guide to amateur press associations (apas), with basic information for every one that the editor could locate: 182 in this issue. Eric finds most of the ones I'm aware of, though I shall be sending some notes for the next edition. It all started with the science fiction apas, but includes comics, politics, sex and more these days; this is *the* place to go if you want to locate a congenial group to join. (D-36r)

★★★★★

2-TON SANTA #38 (5¢ from PO Box 1332, Portsmouth, NH 03801): that's the cover price of this "world's smallest almost-weekly literary magazine", but it would probably help to send a stamp along as well. This issue leads off with some Christmas stuff (well, why not?) and then moves into poetry from Jonathan Levant, Dana Levin and Peter Lee. A few drawings fill it out. (D-4t)

★★★★★

35TH PARALLEL #1 (50¢ from David Rhoden, 1813 Forest Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916): A new exploration of popular culture from someone trying to discover a bit of his own identity. David presents a comic about "My *Least* Favorite Martian", gives a rundown on Tom Lehrer's career, and talks about some more current music as well. Looks promising. (S-7)

★★★★★

5 O'CLOCK SHADOW COMICS #2 (75¢ from Not Available Comics, 106 Summit #1, Ypsilanti, MI 48197): A collection of minicomics from a batch of different people. Matt Feazell contributes a new Cynicalman adventure. Dr. N draws of furry animals and pizza. The mysterious M.J.M. visits a Chick Publications distributor, but backs off at the last minute. Fun. (M-12)

★★★★★

THE ABC NO RIO MAG #5-6 ($1 or so from Matthew Courtney, PO Box 20189, Tompkins Square Stn., New York, NY 10009): An arty collection from the ABC No Rio performance collective down in New York City. They publish lots of poetry and artwork, plus short stories and essays, mostly with a politics of resistance slant to them. AIDS, George Bush, gentrification and more are all touched on here, by a group of feisty free spirits in no need of outside controls. (S-80)

★★★★★

ABRASAX #5 ($4 from James M. Martin, PO Box 1219, Corpus Christi, TX 78403-1219): A Thelemic occult journal which proceeds by devoting each issue to a specific topic. This time around it's "ritual", with contents from serious theory (the editor's "On the Mechanics of Ritual") to not especially inspired pornography ("A Satanic Initiation"). There's a longish article on the basics of Egyptian ritual and another on "Draconian Magick", a system which was new to me. Often outrageous but never timid, with a good section of reviews of other periodicals. Back issues remain available at $5 each. (S-62)

★★★★★

A CAPPELLA #17 (Donation from Adam Jagusiak, ul. Grunwaldzka 33/3, 81-754 Sopot, POLAND): A Polish-language anarchist zine with a short English summary included. They have a rather punk look, with lots of graphics and a comic or two. Topics include news from, the region, cooperation with the US group Neither East Nor West, and anarchist theory. I understand that they find US cash, in any amount, extremely helpful. (A4-20r)

★★★★★

ACROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE #8 ($1.25 from Joop Quadackens, Burg. Kessensingel C3, 6227 VH Maastricht, HOLLAND): Joop is the publisher; the editor is Pete, who lives in England (although much of this zine concerns his visit to America, including a page of outside commentary on the Pentagon blockade). The main focus is music, with Corrosion of Conformity, Killer Crust, and the Fixtures all represented here. The layout is very punk, lots of collage and bits of words hither and thither, but done with care and it reads well. (A4-24r)

★★★★★

ACTION & DEFIANCE Fall 1989 ($1 from IMWU, PO Box 1162, San Francisco, CA 94101): The newsletter of the International Music Workers Union, though there's a lot more in it about social problems than about music. They track Nazi skinhead activities, try to work with alternative musicians in places like Argentina and the Phillipines, and are embroiled in various court battles to preserve youth rights. (D-4r)

★★★★★

THE ACTION LINKAGE NETWORKER #34 ($50/yr from 5825 Telegraph Ave. #45, Oakland, CA 94609): AL is a relatively small and unusual social change group. By tapping the ideas and vision of their membership, they're attempting to construct a radical new society and a means of getting there. They work through networking, many to manys, face to face meetings, and in other ways. It looks exciting, and rewarding to those who get fully involved. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE ACTIVIST #25 ($5/4 issues from DSA Youth Section, 15 Dutch St. #500, New York, NY 10038): The quarterly journal of the younger members of the Democratic Socialists of America. This is a theme issue, on "Students and Labor". Basically it explains a batch of the various crises facing the labor movement, and offers a few firsthand views from those who have held internships in the field. Well-researched but a bit dry. (S-28t)

★★★★★

ADULT VIDEO NEWS Nov. 1989 ($36/yr from 8600 West Chester Pike #300, Upper Darby, PA 19082): Having spun off most of the legal and political news to their companion publication **FREE SPEECH**, this one is now focused in on its prime topic: sex flicks. They feature dozens of reviews, mainly of hardcore stuff, but also R-rated, with special sections for gay and bi movies. Lots of photos but all carefully cropped or covered. The best guide I know of to this industry. (S-76t)

★★★★★

THE ADVENTURES OF DOGMAN #5 (2 dimes & a stamp from 3609 Kent Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055): The art in this minicomic is getting better and more dramatic—big improvement in only five issues. The half-man, half-dog here is just starting to beat up the nefarious Swordbird, who is involved in some shadowy plot—but then has to rush off to San Francisco to do some earthquake relief. (M-8)

★★★★★

AESTHETICIDE #4 ($3 from Jody Trezil, PO Box 235, Taylor, MI 48180): A collection of short writing. Some of the best is very short, in the 7-page section of Quotable Quotes, from undergrounders, celebrities, and Jody's friends. There's also an appearance of Bob Black's **HIGH WEIRDNESS BY MAIL** review, some lyrics from Carl Cella, and a want ad section. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE AFFILIATE Oct.-Nov. 1989 ($3 from Peter Riden, 4322 Cleroux, Chomedey, Laval, Mtl, H7T 2E3, CANADA): Good vibes from music land. Peter makes room for lots of folks to have their say in here, and they talk about things they like instead of slagging off the ones that they don't. There's also an extensive directory of zines and a smaller one of radio stations. An indefinable air of Something Big About To Happen hangs over this zine. (S-32t)

★★★★★

AFRAID Vol. 1 #1 ($15/12 issues from 2170 S. Harbor Blvd. #270, Anaheim, CA 92802): A new market and writing newsletter "for the Horror Professional". This issue opens with an editorial denouncing the HWA for being too picky about what stories it gives its awards to (a rebuttal from Harlan Ellison is included). There's also the expected market news and hints on writing, as well as reviews of books and movies and some amusing first-person accounts from within the field. (S-12t)

★★★★★

AFTER HOURS #4 ($4 from 21541 Oakbrook, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3044): This "Magazine of Dark Fantasy and Horror" is still managing to pack a good number of shuddery stories in each issue. Some of course fall flat (it is ever thus in the small press) but there are enough others that you don't notice. Among the top stories in this issue are Janet Fox's "Screaming to Get Out" and Rachel Plummer's "Till Death Do Us Part". There are also letters, some market news, and an interview with Richard Christian Matheson. (S-48t)

★★★★★

AGENDA Sept.-Oct. 1989 ($15/yr from 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104): An alternative community paper for the Ann Arbor area, apparently growing out of the student community but taking wider concerns in as well. Recycling is a perennial issue here, as is local politics. The October issue has a special section on women's writing and a couple of articles on how the drug war is trickling down to Ann Arbor. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ALASKA METAPHYSICAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Sept.-Oct. 1989 ($12/yr from PO Box 93006, Anchorage, AK 99509-3006): The AMC is sort of an umbrella group for a wide variety of New Age groups. The various outfits involved span the range from Buddhist meditation to Urantia to the Rosicrucians to various healing groups. The newsletter publishes short articles about local New Age goings-on plus bits of metaphysical prose. (S-14r)

★★★★★

ALBANY JOURNAL #17 ($6/yr from Mayer Media, PO Box 5307, Albany, NY 12205): A collection of cartoons and comics, including Washingtoons, Bizarro (my favorite—what can I say, I'm warped) and Twisted Image. Lots of this is connected to the news of the day (with syndicated editorial cartoons prevailing) but there are some pure belly laughs as well. (T-8t)

★★★★★

THE ALBERT HOFFMAN FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #1 ($30/yr from 132 W. Channel Rd. #324, Santa Monica, CA 90402): The Albert Hoffman Foundation was established on the 50th anniversary of the first synthesis of LSD. It's purpose is "to establish a library and world information center dedicated to the scientific study of human consciousness". The newsletter reports on Foundation activities, materials they've collected, and the significance of LSD. (S-8t)

★★★★★

ALIVE & DIRECT #4 ($1.50 *CASH* from 20 Worths Mill Ln., Princeton, NJ 08540): This final issue features an interview with Blind Approach, plus stuff on Intensity and Stumbling Way. There's also skate photos and zine and show reviews. Pete is getting out of the publication business but wants to help other zines so drop him a line if you could use straightedge or skate coverage. (S-28)

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVE NETWORK LETTER Vol. 5 #1/2 ($4/3 issues from Equations, 96, H. Colony, Indiranagar State I, Bangalore- 560 038, INDIA): Subtitled "A Third World Tourism Critique", this one takes a searching look at the impact of mainstream tourism on the culture and economy of the poorer nations of the world. Their conclusion is unequivocal: "The fact is that tourism corrupts, and obsessive tourism corrupts obsessively". But they don't stop there, exploring instead alternatives that make sense and stay close to the spirit of the host country. There's also a full page of contacts to others involved in similar work. (S-12t)

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVE ORANGE Vol. II #5 ($6/10 issues from Rm 126Q, Schine Center, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244): A wide-ranging social justice paper put out by SU students. They cover a lot of topics, drawing on wider movement sources to get some ideas into the heads of their fellow students. This issue covers Central America, violence against women, media bias, big business irresponsibility and more. A nice addition to the nonsectarian left press. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVES Vol. 16 #3 ($22.50/4 issues from Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ONT, N2L 9Z9, CANADA): An academically-based journal of "perspectives on society, technology and environment:. The main theme of this issue is sustainable development, with contributions from a number of women authors who try to work issues of social equity into the picture as well. They also feature environmental news bits from across Canada and elsewhere, and much on world deforestation. (S-68t)

★★★★★

AMBASSADOR REPORT March 1989 (Donation from PO Box 60068, Pasadena, CA 91106): A newsletter put out by members and former members of the Worldwide Church of God, challenging some of the most repressive policies of that organization. Now that Herbert W. Armstrong is gone, they have a new presence to deal with, and this issue dissects Joseph W. Tkach's official biography for falsehoods. (L-12t)

★★★★★

THE AMERICAN GAY ATHEIST Vol. 7 #11 ($24/yr from PO Box 66711, Houston, TX 77266-6711): This one seems to have its roots in the atheist community, reaching out into the gay community. At leas the writers seem feistier about being atheists than about being gay. Mostly it's a roundup of news from around the country, with some notes on what members of the organization have been up to lately. (S-8)

★★★★★

AMERICAN INDIAN DEFENSE NEWS Vol. 4 #1 (50¢ from PO Box 563, Abilene, KS 67410): A collection of clippings and cartoons relating to American Indians. These come from a variety of sources—mainstream newspapers, tabloids, even Amway. The publication is rounded out with various small ads, of the sort one finds in big mail sheets. (S-8t)

★★★★★

AMERICAN LIBERTARIAN Vol. 4 #3-4 ($2 from 21715 Park Brook Dr., Katy, TX 77450): Coverage of the Libertarian movement in America, in all its guises. #3 is heavy on the LP national convention, not surprising since its publisher was running for the chairmanship of the Party. Columnist Murray Rothbard pronounces his disappointment at the scoundrels who were elected as a sidebar. There's also some inside dope on the SIL/LI merger. (T-8t)

★★★★★

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST Sept./Oct. 1989 ($1 from PO Box 994, St. Louis, MO 63144): "The Alternative to Religious Superstition", this one ranges across the overlapping fields of atheism, humanism, and freethought. In this issue, Thomas Vernon examines the logical contradictions implied by the idea of an omnipotent God, while editor Gordon Stein presents some notes on the history of freethought in North America. There are also short jabs at religion and book reviews. (S-16t)

★★★★★

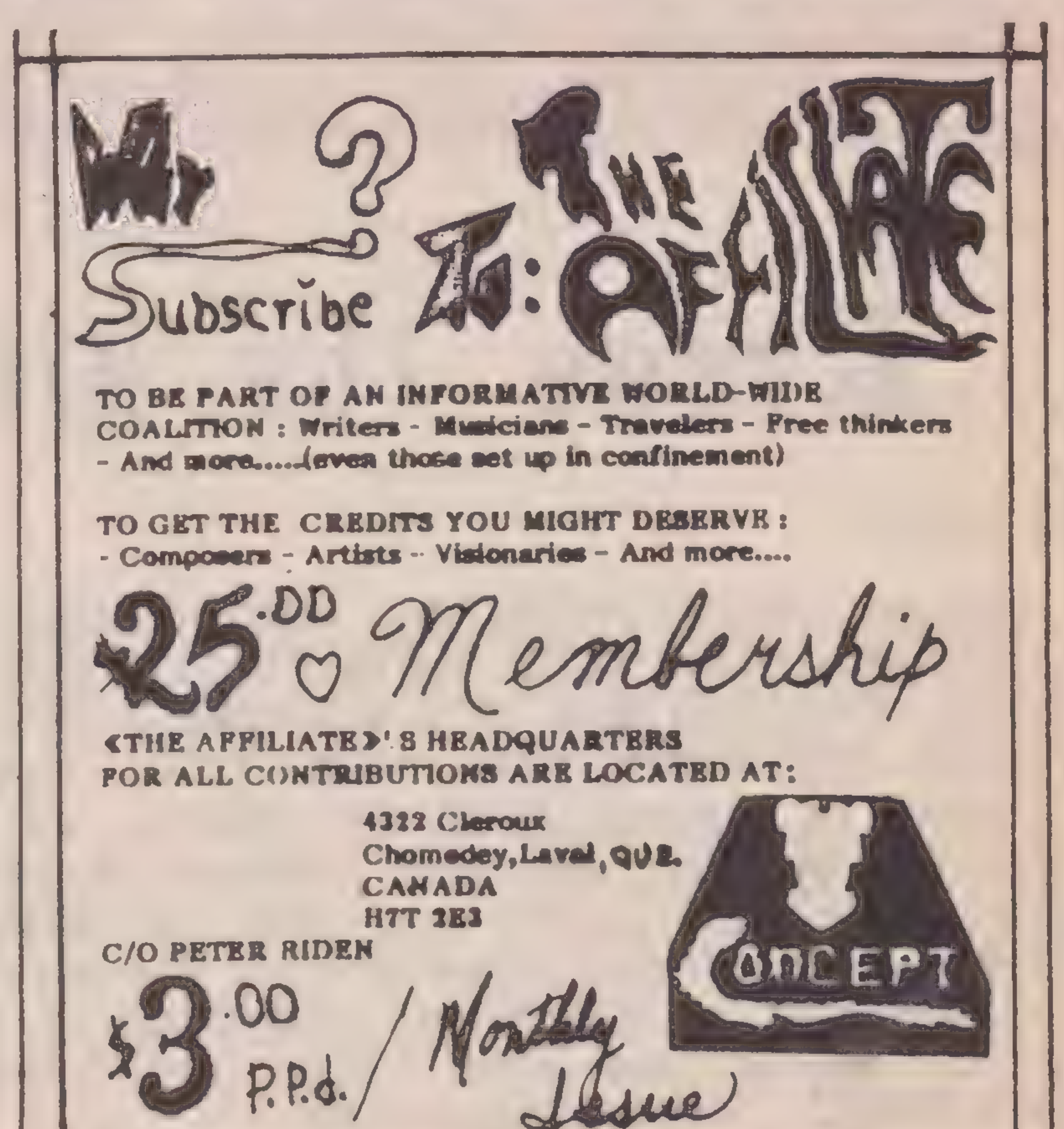
AMERICAN WINDOW CLEANER #18 ($6 from 27 Oak Creek Rd., El Sobrante, CA 94803): A sharp looking trade journal for those who wash windows for a living. There's sort of an air of crisis about this issue, as OSHA considers changing the safety requirements for window washing in a way that might drive a lot of the little guys out of business. Every issue is filled with how-to tips on subjects from using a bosun's chair to washing the new high-tech window coatings. (S-24t)

★★★★★

AMERICA'S AT OUR DOORSTEP Vol. II #6 (On Request from Dennis Brezina, PO Box 411, Churchton, MD 20733): Dennis runs a bed and breakfast place, but he must not pay attention all the time; surely it takes a while to collect the epigrams, quotes, and general silliness in this newsletter. it's not directly concerned with the business, but it does seem as if he's a fun enough guy to make it worth staying with him while in the area. Curious stories and interesting poetry along with letters from the Kalihari. (S-6)

★★★★★

AMERICA'S PROMISE NEWSLETTER April 1989 ($2 from PO Box 30,000, Phoenix, AZ 85046): I'm not sure precisely where these people fit on the far right map, but they're out there somewhere. In a mix of political rhetoric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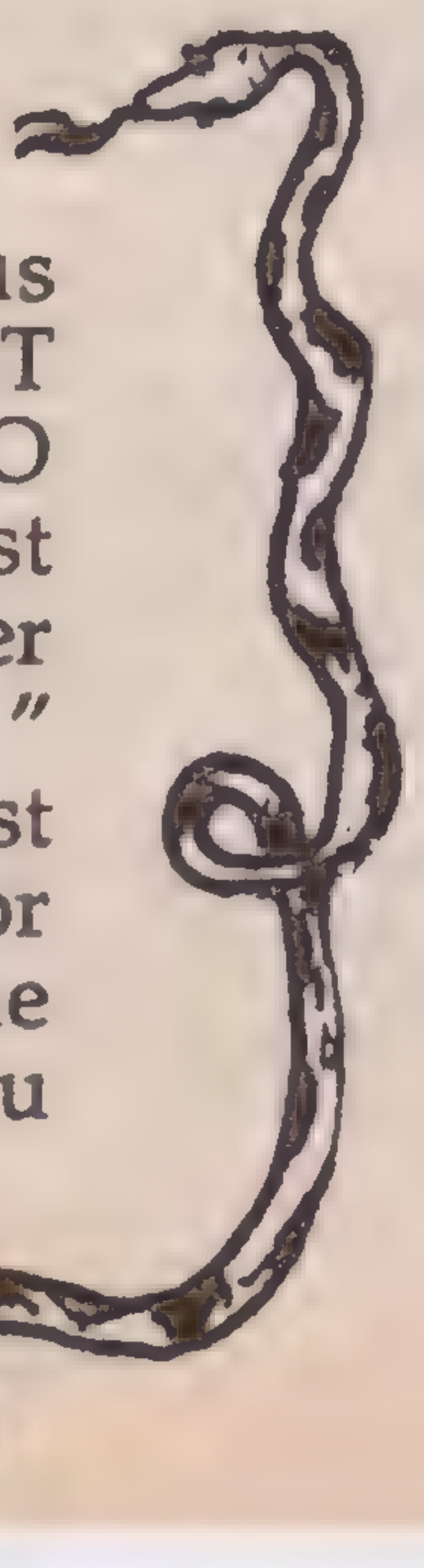

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and Bible-thumping, they demand we support South Africa, attack the IRS and the Federal Reserve, worry about the Russians taking over the world, and announce a memorial for tax revolutionary Gordon Kahl. Strident but not amateurish. (S-8t)

★★★★★

AMOK #4 (3DM from Manfred Hopf, Schlangenthalerweg 20, 6702 Bad Durkheim, WEST GERMANY): A pretty basic punk and hardcore zine, featuring the Circle Jerks, Bad Religion, Fuzztones, Crucial Youth, and more. It's all in German, even the couple of pages of comics and comics reviews. You should probably add some IRCs for postage, since I don't see an overseas price here. (A4-44r)

★★★★★

ANARCHIST LABOR BULLETIN #14 (75¢ from PO Box 210095, San Francisco, CA 94121-0095): These people advocate workplace-based organizing and a general strike as the way to change society for the better. Though their understanding of the anti-work position is still muddy, the presentation of their own ideas has improved, both in content and in being less gratuitously nasty, since a few issues ago when I was arguing with them. Along with the theoretical pieces they present quick notes on union activism, with special attention to the WSA and the IWW. (S-6r)

★★★★★

ANARCHY #22 ($2 from C.A.L., PO Box 1446, Columbia, MO 65205-1446): The best outreach anarchist journal in the country today—though it still has enough inreach content to scare some folks away. This issue has reports from the '89 anarchist gathering, the first part of a serialization of Vaneigem's "The Revolution of Everyday Life", and the usual review of anarchist news and publications. As an insert, there's also the first issue of the new **NORTH AMERICAN ANARCHIST REVIEW** (available separately for SASE), which reviews a batch of books. (S-36t)

★★★★★

ANCIENT GRANDMA SECRETS #3 ($1 from Libby Gilbert, PO Box 42691, Tucson, AZ 85733-2691): Mostly music, mostly live reviews, mostly from Oregon—the state Libby recently vacated—rather than Arizona. I especially enjoyed the Gwar review, which proceeded from a near-clinical description of the show to an attempt at figuring out what good it was. Also a bit of poetry, a few reviews, and a nightmare about the coming corporate Amerika. (S-12)

★★★★★

THE ANDERSON VALLEY ADVERTISER 9/6/89 ($27/yr from PO Box 459, Boonville, CA 95415): A weekly progressive look at events in and around Mendocino County. This issue is delightful, featuring an interview with Beth Bosk, editor of **NEW SETTLER INTERVIEW**, and a Lawrence Livermore column on drug testing as well as feisty letters and local social and political news. A nice mix of small town flavor and aware politics. (T-10t)

★★★★★

ANGLOFILE Vol. 2 #3 ($12/6 issues from The Goody Press, PO Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033): News from Britain for fans of all manner of British media productions. This issue, for example, includes a chat with Tom Baker about life after Doctor Who and an interview with Peter Davison, now playing Campion. There's a reminiscence about the early days of the Rolling Stones, notes on new album releases by Kate Bush and others, and the fall lineup for BBC productions on PBS. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA Oct.-Nov. 1989 ($22/yr from PO Box 6809, Syracuse, NY 13217): A wide-ranging slick magazine of animal rights and related concerns. Each issue is packed with news bits as well as feature articles. October includes a special section on Judaism and animal rights, as well as articles on driftnets and wildlife "sanctuaries". November reports on the rising tide of anti-circus activism, thanks to the inhumane way circus animals are treated. (S-60t)

★★★★★

THE ANTENNA #2 ($1 from 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104): A collection of stuff from all over the popular culture map. The main feature this time is an interview with comics artist Roger Williamson, who also contributes some interior art and a cover. There's also movie reviews (of classics like "Baby Doll"), music reviews, a diner appreciation, and a free Mr. T air freshener. (D-36r)

★★★★★

ABOUT APAS

"Apa" stands for "Amateur Press Association". Think of them as cocktail parties in print. Every apa has a central person who does the assembling and mailing of each issue. Members write whatever they want, make an agreed-upon number of copies, and send them to this person, who then collates the individual submissions into sets which are stapled together as the final apa. Costs are covered by each member paying for their own printing and postage. Many apas will sell you a sample copy so you can get a feel for their flavor and interests, but the bottom line is that this is participatory publishing, so if you aren't interested in contributing, don't bother to get in touch. Although there are hundreds of apas, most won't trade with other zines, which is why I only list a dozen or two.

★★★★★

JOHN HÄRÄKANGAS-1984

APA-5 #194 (Contact Sheila Wilding, 17645 Via Sereno, Monte Sereno, CA 95030): This apa started about 18 years back in comics fandom, and there's still a heavy comics influence. There's lots more art here than in most apas, for example, much of it pretty good. But there's also a body of apa traditions, lots of interesting mailing comments, and subjects from sexism to Star Trek under discussion. (S-107)

★★★★★

APA-EROS #21-22 ($2 from John and Kathe Burt, 960 SW Jefferson Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333): A forum for sexual discussion of all types. Some folks are chatting seriously about topics like multiple orgasms. Others are running serialized fiction set in less-repressive worlds, or reminiscences of past sexual experiences. There are also short reviews of various progressive publications and services. (D-36r)

★★★★★

APA-TAROT #45-46 (Contact Sheila Wilding, 17645 Via Sereno, Monte Sereno, CA 95030): Freespace for intelligent discussion of Tarot cards and related matters, with lots of interesting pictures. Some of the people here have quite extensive collections, and so discussions of different decks are always in order. There's also plenty of chatting about just how to use the cards as well as how to enjoy them—and, of course, the usual irrelevant (but fun) conversations. (S-92)

★★★★★

APEX #1-3 (50¢ & a stamp from Larry Towsley, 5723 Riverford Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604): A digest-sized self-published comic that doesn't tie itself to one style of doing things. In #1 Larry has a typical sort of superhero (though with a few problems); in #3 there's one main story focusing on the death of a baby. Playful layouts keep things from getting stale. (D-8)

★★★★★

APOCRYPHA FROM A PAGAN WORLD ($1.75 from Jason Whitley, 579 Pulaski St., Athens, GA 30601): A selection of off the wall comics by Jason. He has an interesting visual style, with very well done pictures and nice layouts. The stories here tend to have some spiritual component, but the morals are not especially heavy-handed. I liked the warthog. (D-20)

★★★★★

APOGEE #2 (Donation from High Flight Foundation, PO Box 1387, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-1387): "A Program Of God Everywhere for Every man", this is the evangelical organ of ex-astronaut Jim Irwin's foundation. It reports on their projects, which include Bibles to Russia and the continuing search for Noah's ark, in a simple, straightforward manner. (S-4t)

★★★★★

APPALACHIAN EARTH FIRST! Mabon Issue (Donation from PO Box 309, Nellysford, VA 22958): A short newsletter from one of the regional affiliates of the Earth First! organization. Unlike the main branch, they don't publish a lot of philosophical articles. Rather, this space is used for short news bits and announcements of upcoming aboveground events. (S-6t)

★★★★★

AQUARIAN ALTERNATIVES #166-167 ($12/12 issues from 5620 Morton St., Philadelphia, PA 19144): The newsletter of the Aquarian Research Foundation, a group of concerned folks who are interested in finding ways to save the world. Spearheaded by ex-Bruderhof member Art Rosenblum, their strongest interests are in peace and community. They're going after the former with a simple radical proposal, the abolition of the military. On the latter front, they're active networkers. (S-8)

★★★★★

ARENA REPORT Vol. II #2-4 ($1 from Ron Lemieux, 370 Lake Tahoe Ct. #102, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701): A wrestling newsletter which basically depends on printing the results of matches with some bare bones commentary. There's also a short letters column and some news on wrestling in Florida. (S-7)

★★★★★

ART:MAG #11 ($2.50 from Peter Magliocco, 5055 E. Charleston F110, Las Vegas, NV 89104): This one seems more uneven than most literary zines, perhaps due to Magliocci's habit of running photocopied manuscripts instead of retyping. The main feature here is an interview with James Purdy, together with an excerpt from his forthcoming book. Randy Moore art jazzes up a number of pages, and a number of poets including Steve Richmond and Belinda Subraman also contribute. (D-72r)

★★★★★

ART

DAH JILT #2 ($2 from Terrence Brannon, PO Box 87128, Atlanta, GA 30337): A zine of mainly photographics prints, with some writing in the nooks and crannies. Much of this stuff has a surrealist feel to it. There's also xerographic experimentation and some comic style drawings. In an interesting sideline, many of the images here are available as large photos or t-shirts. Plastic report binder cover. (S-16t)

★★★★★

ARTPAPER Vol. 9 #2-3 ($20/yr from 119 N. 4th St. #303, Minneapolis, MN 55401): Art, opinion and research in a generous tabloid format. In the October issue, Peter Lamborn Wilson discusses wild children (one of his favorite subjects) while others consider the esthetic of the strip show or the fall TV season. There are also reviews of local exhibitions and probably the best-looking spread the Art Strike organizers have gotten yet. November includes pieces by Chris Gunderson on radical environmentalism and Jan Zita Grover on BBS's that might attract artists. (T-32t)

★★★★★

ARTE POSTALE! #60-61 (Vittore Baroni, Via. C. Battisti 339, 55049 Viareggio, LU, ITALY): #60 has the alternative title NETZINE, and it's an intensely interesting collection of essays which attempt to get to the bottom of the mail art network, under the guidance of collective editorship. (The attempt seems to have destroyed the collective.) #61 is simultaneously an issue of Baroni's mail art mag and an issue of SMILE, the international magazine of multiple origins. Baroni collects bits of art from around the world here, all featuring happy faces in one mutation or another. There's also a centerfold documenting all the other SMILEs that he's tracked down. Probably most available for an exchange of art. (M-64)

★★★★★

ARTSFOCUS Vol. 3 #11 ($210/yr from PO Box 9994, Seattle, WA 98109): A paper of arts news from Seattle, including the behind the scene dirt on why particular theater companies are going belly up. Theater is a prime but not exclusive concern here, as they also feature a jazz review and an extensive article on Survival Research Laboratories. There's also a calendar of local happenings including readings and dance. (T-16t)

★★★★★

ART UPDATE Fall 1989 ($15/yr from PO Box 627, Bloomfield Hills, MN 48303): Nope, not an arts paper; this is from Americans for Responsible Television, the organization founded by self-appointed gadfly Terry Rakolta, who doesn't want her kids—*or yours*—watching "Married With Children". Mostly this is just alarmism, with no firm programme, but the spectre of censorship lurks very closely below the surface. (S-8t)

★★★★★

ASPECTS #1-2 ($2 from Steve Polsz, 5507 Regent St., Philadelphia, PA 19143): An eclectic New Agish exploration of "personal development". The writers here draw on gematria, chaos theory, and everything in between in an attempt to come up with a systematic explanation of the universe. There are also editorials promoting personal freedom, mediatory exercises to try, and reviews of intriguing books. (S-32)

★★★★★

ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO FREE #7 ($1.50 from PO Box 1484, Oxford, MS 38655): A zine of anarchy and music. In the latter category, they have interviews with Dead Horse, Hunger Artist and Neurosis. In the former, they have a basic guide to anarchy plus a transcript of an argument between the zine's staff and some white supremecist. Well assembled and packed with show and other reviews. (S-32t)

★★★★★

THE ATROCITY Vol. 13 #8/9-10 ($8/12 issues from Hank Roll, 2419 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221): A collection of office humor, pseudo-scientific laws, button and bumper sticker slogans, and similar items from the underbelly of society. Put together by a batch of MENSAn contributors, this will amuse and outrage almost anyone. Joke topics include AIDS and Exxon; nothing is safe. And the members of the SIG fill the "Babble for the Rabble" pages with, well, atrocious stuff. (S-24r)

★★★★★

AUTOPSY #5 ($2 from Chris Doolan, 89 Pangeza St., Stafford Heights, Brisbane, QLD 4053, AUSTRALIA): A natural combination here: heavy metal and hardcore music with splatter movies. There's a short GG Allin interview (from prior to his incarceration), reviews of a WASP album and the latest Friday the 13th movie, and plenty of other short reviews. A few illos break up the reviews. (A4-6r)

★★★★★

BABY CONNECTION NEWS JOURNAL Vol. 5 #4 ($9/6 months from PO Drawer 13320, San Antonio, TX 78213-3320): A monthly for new parents which concentrates on providing products that address the latest results of research on infant development. You can now get videotapes, play areas, and mobiles crafted to have the right amount of contrast and shape and few distracting colors so your kid will grow up right. On the lighter side, there are some chuckles about proper fatherly behavior in the playground. (T-8t)

★★★★★

BABYFAT #61 (75¢ from Scott L. Stevens, 8220 Research #114B, Austin, TX 78758): A curious little comic book that tackles topics like freedom of speech and police violation of civil rights. To make it more ambiguous, it's not just the cops listening in on the line here, but the lead character as well. Mutating images prevail. (M-8)

★★★★★

BACKLASH Oct.-Nov. 1989 ($1 (?) from 4128 Fremont Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103): Music coverage with a Seattle focus (sometimes taken to an extreme—the story on the local battle to not be fined for putting posters on phone poles unaccountably doesn't mention Bob Z's case in New York). The music is mostly bands I've never heard of, but as the area is one of the hotbeds of new music, this probably won't last. Crisis Party, Dogma Cipher, and Myramainz are some of the groups in the October issue, along with a new column of zine reviews. The November issue leads off with an examination of Soundgarden in the face of their major label success. (T-16t)

★★★★★

BACKWOODS HOME MAGAZINE #1 ($9.95/yr from PO Box 1624, Ventura, CA 93002): This new magazine is intended for people who want to get away from the crush and expense of city living. The lead article encourages you to build your own home for under $10,000. They're also into high-tech; solar cells get a few pages here. The inclusion of short stories, meant to celebrate the writers in the backwoods, seems to contribute to a lack of focus. But there's a spark here, and the list of coming features is promising. (S-40t)

★★★★★

THE BAG #31 (SASE & Personal note from Buddah Worthmore, 28313 58th Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079): Continued ramblings on drugs and music (take that any way you like it). This time around Buddah discusses the record store business (and later reviews a few albums briefly), priorities in life, and the seductiveness of dope smoking. Hippie thoughts altered by history and circumstance. (S-4r)

★★★★★

BAHLISTI PAPERS Vol. IV #iii ($2 [checks to CASH] from Kali Lodge, Ordo Templi Orientis, PO Box 15038, New Orleans, LA 70115): A literary approach to Thelemic magick. While they do publish the results of things like Enochian visions and Tarot pathworkings, there is also a great deal of more obscure material here. Much of this is apparently fictionalizations of the lives of the initiates in this lodge, and a bizarre set of lives it is indeed. (S-16)

★★★★★

BANANAFISH #4 ($3 from Seymour Glass, PO Box 11463, San Francisco, CA 94101-7463): This zine is a special tribute to Karen Carpenter, and it comes with a hard-vinyl compilation record (tracks by World of Pooh, Cathy Kidd and Tim Smyth, Thinking Fellers Union Local 282, and others) of Carpenter covers. Frankly, I just don't get it. The music is miserable, the writing is disjointed, and even the band interviews are only moderately interesting. Nice layout and a definite attempt to break out of the music biz mold, but it all falls pretty flat. Maybe I just don't have a sense of humor. (HL-72t)

★★★★★

BANG! #20 ($1 from 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): This music zine seems to be moving rather heavily into film as well; this issue has a chat with Russ Meyer, another with Barbara Dare, and a third with Alyce Wittenstein. On the noise front, they catch up to the Fuzztones and the Ramones. Many of the photos are washed out by a poor printing job, but the words are still fun. (S-28)

★★★★★

BANZAI Aug.-Oct. 1989 ($6/12 issues from PO Box 6555, Kansas City, KS 66106): A music tabloid which concentrates on local bands, metal bands, and young bands—with many of the players here being all three. They feature gossip and news from their local scene as well as record reviews and a fair number of pictures. (T-8t)

★★★★★

BASEBALL DIARY Vol. 8 #2 ($15/season from William Fuller, 3042 6th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95817): Life and baseball all wrapped up together with innovative photo collages and other fun graphics. There's a batch of people who write here, more letter than articles, and a sense that they happen to enjoy the little round ball but it's not their whole life. It must mean something that this interests me whereas I dropped out of Little League after about two games. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE BATHROOM WALL #1-2 ($1 (?) from Jeff Percel, 1565 E. Bulldog Ln. #201, Fresno, CA 93710): A tabloid of offensive comics and some local hardcore music coverage. They seem to find the human genitalia screamingly funny, to the point of having a parody strip featuring Buttman and Poker (the later with a phallic nose). Should appeal to the dope-smoking high school set. (T-12)

★★★★★

BAYOU LA ROSE #31 ($7.50/4 issues from 302 N. "J" St. #3, Tacoma, WA 98403): An anarchist tabloid with a strong slant towards the struggles of workers and indigenous peoples, which sets it off within the movement. In this issue editor Arthur Miller sums up the situation with the world's forests (dismal). They also appear to be the last publication still putting out news on Leonard Peltier. (T-32)

★★★★★

BEATLEFAN Vol. 11 #5 ($12/6 issues from PO Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033): There are still plenty of folks out there who are die-hard Beatles fans, and this is for them. In addition to historical articles ("A Hard Day's Night" gets saluted in this issue), they track the current careers of the remaining Beatles, with Paul and Ringo's concert tours headlining this issues. They also review bootlegs, including the latest round of bootleg CDs. (S-34t)

★★★★★

BEHIND THE MASK #1 ($1 from Lonepath Ltd., 1076 Curran St., Atlanta, GA 30318): A digest-sized ghost-story comic that makes good use of its format, including a hand-colored centerfold. It's not slick and pro-looking, but well laid out and interesting nonetheless. (D-8)

★★★★★

BEN IS DEAD #6 ($1.50 from PO Box 3166, Hollywood, CA 90028): A guide to the Los Angeles music scene that's an alternative to the batch of metal-oriented tabloids in the area. In addition to being leaders in the campaign against pay-to-play shows, the folks here review a batch of records, discuss occasional social issues (the anarchist gathering gets a page in #6) and have a good time on the letters page. Short interviews with Dead Silence and the Herb Tarlicks are almost squeezed out by the bulk of live show reviews. (S-32t)

★★★★★

BENT #1-2 ($1 & Age Statement from Cellar Productions, 11 Werner Rd., Greenville, PA 16125): A collection of collages, with news clips, small bondage pictures, celebrity moustaches, violence. horror, and threat as the main components. Available for trade for anythign "weird, bizarre, strange or different." (D-12)

★★★★★

BERKELEY SUCKS #1 (25¢ postage from PO Box 40004, Berkeley, CA 94704): A ranting little zine from the music community that puts out its cigarette on your face and dares you to make something out of it. They say nasty things about the local scene, republish a famous paean to dynamite, and slam a few albums. There's a review of a Johnny Thunders show and some anti-Nazi propaganda as well. (D-16r)

★★★★★

BETWEEN THE LINES Vol. 1 #5-6 ($10/yr from Sacramento Peace Center, 1917A 16th St., Sacramento, CA 95814): This is a "cooperative grassroots newspaper", with many groups in the Sacramento area (vegetarians, the DSA, the Greens, New Jewish Agenda, and more) contributing their own pages to the whole. There are also feature articles, from a Green/populist/anarchist perspective for the most part. Looks like a winning formula for building alternative community. #6 has some interesting history on persecution of the Wobblies, together with some modern union busting. (T-20t)

★★★★★

BEYOND WITHIN #3-4 ($1 from Scott Williams, 1326 Curtis Ave., Pt. Pleasant, NJ 08742): The final two issues of this comic of psychosis, destruction, and other cheery things. Two of the three main characters survive, with all sorts of brain-exploding adventures on the way. Insanity is one of the big heroes here. (D-16)

★★★★★

BIG DICK WORSHIP #2-3 ($1.25 from PO Box 247, Lasalle St., West Hartford, CT 06107): A college-based publication with strong feminist overtones. It's not 100% clear who's responsible for what here, but the folks involved spend a lot of time blasting media and educational institutions that encourage stereotyping. They also have plenty of fun, with collage layouts, a bulimic's guide to restaurants, academic matching games, and more in #2. #3 has Bob Black, some reviews and other words from the editors. Rebellion ain't dead yet. (S-18)

★★★★★

BLAB! #3 ($7.95 from Kitchen Sink Press, No. 2 Swamp Rd., Princeton, WI 54968): A perfect-bound digest of comics and comics history. They're in the mainstream of the underground, with a section of other artists commenting on the influence of R. Crumb being the most prominent thing here. There's also a fascinating history of Bazooka Joe, as well as original (and sometimes disgusting) work from Joe Coleman, Richard Sala, Drew Friedman, and others. (D-128t)

★★★★★

BLACK EYE #7 ($1.50 *CASH* from 339 Lafayette #2, New York, NY 10012): A collection of essays and rants from a generally anarchistic crowd that's more interested in real life than abstract theory. The two best essays here are the one by B.P. Ummfatik on ripping off your employer and the one by Mary Shelley on "Squatting as Self-Determination". Other topics include the ideology of the Jacobins, events in China, and black nationalism. (D-36r)

★★★★★

THE BLACK FLAME Vol. 1 #2 ($3 from PO Box 499, Radio City Stn., New York, NY 10101): A relatively new Satanist quarterly following firmly in the path of Anton Szandor LaVey. This doesn't blind them to the diversity of the movement, though, as they profile several idiosyncratic groups in this issue. There are also book and movie reviews as well as a number of theoretical articles. The level of discussion is quite high, and the end result is fascinating. (S-24t)

★★★★★

BLACK PAGE Vol. 0 #0-Vol. 1 #1 ($2 *CASH*/stamps from PO Box 666, Daytona Beach, FL 32115): A new zine of the occult and related topics, put out by members of the OTO and the Temple of Set. They seem most fascinated by Crowley and Grant, though there are sprinklings of other things here as well. Lots of Goetia in #0. Both issues have ads for a bunch of other magickal newsletters that I've never seen. (S-18)

★★★★★

BLONDIE FANZINE Vol. 1 #12-Vol. 2 #4 ($1 from Robert S. Robbins, 1997 Misner Rd., Williamsport, PA 17701): A single-sheeter of writing and computer graphics dedicated to the band Blondie. It seems more excited than exciting, a way for Robbins to get his fannishness (or obsession?) down on paper. #12 features a fictional account of an early Blondie concert at CBGB and some quotes from the Warhol diaries; #1 reports on an actual concert. With #4 they've gone to a larger format, with 8 pages of computer scanned pictures (but the dot matrix printing doesn't really do justice to them). (S-12)

★★★★★

BLOOD TIMES Vol. 1 #8/9-10/11 ($2 from Louis Paul, 44 E. 5th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218): This zine of "film and video reviews" really seems to be hitting its stride lately. The best part is their grouping of films together according to the filmmaker, letting them do broad historical surveys; Mario Bava and Jess Franco both get sections in these issues. There's also a good listing of other genre zines and a batch of current reviews. (S-20)

★★★★★

BLOODY VAGINA PEE RIOT # 1/2 ($1 (?) from Xex Graphix, PO Box 240611, Memphis, TN 38124): A minicomic by Ion, which is thoroughly fascinated with such things as menstrual blood, incest, and gore in general. What makes it special (beyond the disgusting graphics, I mean) are the fold-out pages, where little panels pull up to reveal continuations of the comics. Much hand-labor involved—sort of a pop-up book for perverts. (M-16)

★★★★★

BLOW TORCH #1-2 (25¢ & a stamp from High Improbability International, PO Box 523, Columbia Station, OH 44028-0523): This one calls itself "The minicomic equivalent of digital sampling", and it has a sort of confused & jittery feel about it. Included within #1 are a reprint of the notorious "Did God Ordain the Holocaust?" pamphlet, a letter from a local DJ, and some flotsam of popular culture. #2 is even more inscrutable. Comes with a broadside, **THE INNER GROOVE**, which somewhat explains editor Rodney Eric Griffith's view of reality. (M-12t)

★★★★★

BLUE LIGHTS #25/26 ($6 from Christine Menefee, 600 Water St. SW #8-14, Washington, DC 20024): This one is for fans of the Starman TV series. Although the group behind it, Spotlight Starman, is still agitating to get the series back on the air, they're also active in a lot of other directions. This includes conventions, publicity for things the Starman folks are doing now, and just having fun together. #25/26 is a double issue containing a special section of appreciation of the episode "The Wedding". (S-48r)

★★★★★

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Vol. XLIII #1-2 (Donation from Institute of Human relations, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA 70118-6195): Capsule discussions of various social problems, trends in the peace movement, and so on. #1 is an article by Cary Fowler on chemical and biological warfare, from history to possibilities for future disarmament. #2 looks at the deteriorating situation in Haiti. (S-8t)

★★★★★

B METANEWS #2-4 (50¢ & SASE from PO Box 3361, Charlottesville, VA 22903): A small publication with commentary on current music and other things. #2, for example, has a column recounting a recent speech by Buzz Aldrin. Of note is the fact that they're "Share-right", i.e., they encourage people to pass copies along. #3 explores the mindset of television advertising and the similarities between the genetic code and the I Ching. (S-4t)

★★★★★

BOILED ANGEL #2 ($2 from Michael C. Diana, 519 Cleveland ve. SW, Largo, FL 34640): A comics-based zine designed to offend nearly everyone. It opens with blasphemy and pornography, then moves into gore, sexism and necrophilia. They reprint some stuff from WAR, pictures of skin diseases, and mass murderer interviews. Plenty of undergrounders will probably get a kick out of this, but parents will be horrified. Mike Diana and Carl Alessi contribute all sorts of gruesome drawings to set the pace. (D-80)

★★★★★

BOING BOING #1 ($4 *CASH* from Mark Frauenfelder, 712 17th, Boulder, CO 80302): A delightful new zine for the neophiliac. Mark apparently was influenced by a lot of the same subversive literature that shaped my life, and now he's done something about it. The first issue features an interview with Robert Anton Wilson, book, zine and software reviews, wild predictions, comics, and much more. Nanotechnology, comics, libertarianism, drugs and sibling rivalry all play a part. An enjoyable romp through memespace. (S-36)

★★★★★

BONE & FLESH #3 ($2.50 from Lester Hirsh, PO Box 349, Concord, NH 03302): The contents here are mostly poetry (of which works by Arthur Winfield Knight and Roy Zarucchi, both exploring father/son relationships, stand out) but there's a substantial leavening of other matter. This includes artwork, a review of Raymond Carver's latest works, and an essay by Frederick Moe on what's special about Fairport Convention. Mostly very straightforward, concentrating on craft rather than experimentalism. (D-32r)

★★★★★

BOOB GIRL #1 and **HEADLIGHT COMICS** #1 (Both for 4 25¢ stamps & Age Statement from Greg Manter, 3833 Concord Bridge Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452): A pair of explicit minicomics focused on big breasts. In the first, Boob Girl meets up with Massive Man in an orgasm contest; the second is a collection of well-endowed sketches. (M-8)

★★★★★

BOPGUN #1 ($4/4 issues from Kyle Barnett, 2020 N. Delaware #2, Indianapolis, IN 46202): Kyle has lashed together a serviceable zine for the first time out, staking out an area in the midst of the major indie music trends to consider. Interviews here include Giant Sand, folkie Kirk Kelly, and Modern Vending. There's also a pile of record reviews, of stuff from the major indies. Competent and readable. (D-20r)

★★★★★

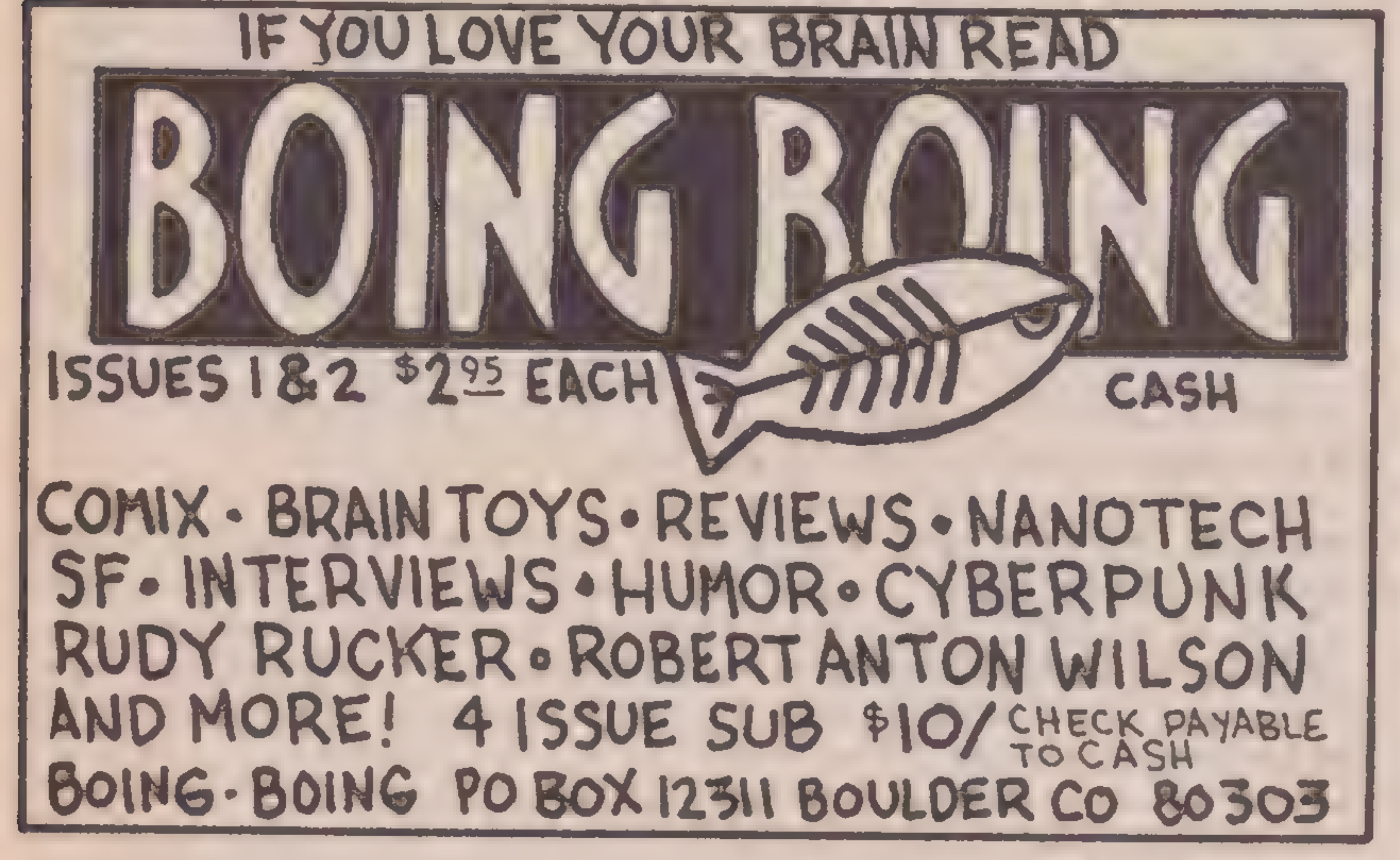
BOSTON ROCK #97 ($1.50 from PO Box 371, New Town Branch, Boston, MA 02258): A tabloid of new music, of the college-indie sort, that consists mostly of stories rather than interviews. #97 includes Roger Miller, The The, Blood Oranges, Royal Crescent Mob, Blake Banies, and a dozen or so more. There's also a blow-by-blow description of this year's Rumble (a Boston contest featuring 24 unsigned bands). (T-24t)

★★★★★

BOTTOM DRAWER ZINE #1 (50¢ from 3579 Via La Primavera, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360): From Greg, who also does LOCAL ZINE, comes this between-issues filler. The first issue features a batch of skateboarding photos and an essay explaining the origin of the zine's name. (D-12)

★★★★★

THE BOY TOM NEWSLETTER #7 ($4 from 646 N. Lafayette Park Pl. #13, Los Angeles, CA 90026): This is the "Popular Ideology" issue of the zine that says "Let us build sand castles together, in the litter box of mass culture". Using cheesy graphics from the 1950s or from Communist propaganda and typewritten texts and speech balloons, they not-so-gently poke at the whole notion of ideology and expose it as a mass of gummy contradictions. The comic look of the reading does not disguise the fact that heavy messages about alienation and pointlessness are being delivered here. (S-24)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★★★★★

THE BRAIN CENTER NEWSLETTER Summer 1989 ($5/yr from PO Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701): The Brain Center is a group of folks who get together "for the examination of new ideas and new trends in the sciences and related disciplines", presented on a level for the intelligent layman. Their primary activity appears to be a series of talks, which this newsletter describes. Looks most useful if you're both in the area and interested. (S-4t)

★★★★★

BRAIN DEAD Vol. 1 #11 ($3 from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): This is a double issue of this artzine—and I mean double, two separate booklets in a plastic bag. Most of the content is John's own art, dark and scary and surreal and wonderfully drawn; his style is instantly recognizable and very enjoyable. Joe E and Don Glass also contribute artwork, while Carol Schutzbank chimes in with music reviews, perhaps the most straightforward section of the zine. There's also a few zine reviews and some poetry. Good stuff. (HL-108)

★★★★★

BRAIN FOOD #2 (25¢ postage from Brain Food Productions c/o Mr. McDonald, 7645 N. Sheridan Rd. #315, Chicago, IL 60625): A collection of socially-conscious essays and reprints. Topics touched on in #2 include the instruments of torture used against women by the Inquisition, animal rights, and the power and limits of punk. Interesting reading. (D-12r)

★★★★★

BRASIG #3 (IRCs from Uwe Janssen, Neusdender Weg 30, 2900 Oldenburg, WEST GERMANY): Judging by the amount of bright color, psychedelic illustrations, and pictures of wild guitars, this music zine is oriented towards garage rockers. It seems to be mostly groups I don't know of (Poison, Workshop, Kings of Balla Balla) which probably makes them from somewhere in Europe. A real colorful publication. (A5-40r)

★★★★★

BREITENBUSH NEWSLETTER Vol. VII #3 ($4/yr from PO Box 578, Detroit, OR 97342): This is a two-in-one publication. First there's the schedule of events for the Breitenbush retreat and conference center, everything from mycological conferences to women's retreats. Then there are notes from the community that lives there. The centerpiece of this issue is a long chat with Ram Dass, focusing on alternative communities. Looks like a fun place to visit or even live. (S-32t)

★★★★★

BRICK: ART IS A WEAPON #4 ($1 *CASH* from 151 First Ave. #7, New York, NY 10003): A collection of art and art criticism in the service of a revolution to come. The folks here do seem to believe that art can change the world, or at least our view of it. Contributions include Weinman's "White Boy" poems, Brick Shark's analysis of "Do The Right Thing", and various posters with an anti-Establishment message. There's also a manifesto for graffiti and some anti-surveillance posters for sale. (D-52)

★★★★★

BRIMSTONE Vol. I #II ($5 from 231 Kennedy Dr., Box 130, Malden, MA 02148): One of several new journals devoted to Satanism, this one is already raking quite a bit of muck, publishing many pages of letters documenting infighting among various folks in the Church of Satan and the Temple of Set (outsiders may need a scorecard to keep track). There are also pedagogical articles, including on one "unison with the mind of Satan" and another on manipulating people in daily life. (S-40)

★★★★★

BROADSHEET ONE (50¢ postage from Jason Walters, 526 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): For that price you'll get this and whatever else Jason has hanging around to send you. The broadsheet is actually a couple of sheets with short pieces by Jason on living in the city. The stuff on bike messengers and their relations with cops (not good in SF) is particularly interesting. A new vision of life. (S-4)

★★★★★

B-SIDE Vol. 3 #5 ($3 from PO Box 1860, Burlington, NJ 08016): Music coverage from the indie scene, concentrating on talking to and writing about the bands. Featured in this issue are Henry Rollins, Dee Dee Ramone, Moev, Killdozer, My Bloody Valentine, and lots of others. A couple of reviewers pick out the records you should be listening to, while live action gets a few pages too. Big format, slick cover...making a big push for respectability. (T-50t)

★★★★★

BUF-O Vol. 5 #4 (*Trade ONLY* from Klaus Haisch, 1729 E. Tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): A collection of whatever's struck Klaus's fancy lately in television, movies and comics. #4 has more of his ratings and synopses of classic Twilight Zone episodes, some pages from Jeff Smith's latest comics, and a PI short story. (S-18)

★★★★★

BURNING TODDLERS #6 ($2 from Peter Petrisko, Jr., PO Box 56942, Phoenix, AZ 85079): A collection of news and fantasies from the margins. In this issue, the editor discusses the Phoenix anti-postering laws and his run-in with them, Bob Black has friendly relations with an anarchist, Jim Lippard predicts protest fads for the 90's, and Maureen Kelleher compares the Panama Canal with the vaginal canal. There's also art strike propaganda, reviews and much more. (D-40t)

★★★★★

BURP NEWS Oct. 1989 ($1 (?) from Bill Ridgely, 7430 Gene St., Alexandria, VA 22310): Published by Brewers United for Real Potables, this is produced by and for people who like to produce (and later consumer) their own beer. They discuss hints on brewing techniques, track decent pub-available beers, and get together to critique one another's efforts. Looks like a fun social club. (S-10)

★★★★★

BUSHWACKER #212-213 (50¢ from Fred C. Davis, Jr., 3210-K Wheaton Way, Ellicott City, MD 21043): A no-frills zine for postal Diplomacy players—actually, most of the games Fred is running seem to be bizarre variants, using the basic idea of Diplomacy in settings like the ancient Mediterranean. There's also a game starting called "Five Italies", which I have no idea how to interpret. Anyhow, besides game moves and news, Fred publishes somewhat rambling personal commentary, and he's been at it for quite a while. (S-6)

★★★★★

BUSHWHACKER #2 ($1 from Jason McGill, PO Box 23, S. Gardiner, ME 04359): A zine of music and social consciousness, as exemplified by the argument for veganism in this issue. On the sound side there are interviews with Uniform Choice, the Stench, and Reason to Believe. A batch of reviews of zines and books and music are all muddled together in the middle. (D-20r)

★★★★★

BUTSUMON Fall Ohigan, 1989 (On request from 1710 Octavia St., San Francisco, CA 94109): A combination Buddhist newspaper and catalog for the Buddhist Bookstore in San Francisco. They publish fascinating essays, as well as contacts and other information. The Fall issue includes a look at Beatnik poetry and its zen content, a note on book by "Tofu Roshi", and thoughts on whether zazen is good for everyone. Very wide-raning and well done. (T-16t)

★★★★★

BUTT BISCUIT #1-2 (50¢ from Dean Williams, 555 E. William #9F, Ann Arbor, MI 48104): The first two issues of this mini are apparently setting up for big plot developments to come. First we meet Chad, who talks to his syrup bottle and beats his cat. Then it's off to the country and a couple who abandon their retarded child. Nobody here seems quite normal; it's anyone's guess what will happen next. (M-16)

★★★★★

BUZZ #47-48 ($6/6 issues from PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203): Music news aimed at the local college market. BUZZ provides a mix of show listings, band interviews and reviews to keep folks posted on what's hot. In #47, this includes Front 242 and Exene Cervenka as well as a batch of smaller, local bands. #48 doubled as the program guide for the recent Albany New Music Expo, a showcase of a bunch of talented but unsigned bands. (S-30t)

★★★★★

BVI-BLACK COFFEE #5 ($1 from C. Goldberg, PO Box 6248, Albany, NY 12206-0248): C. has been moving about lately, so even though this zine comes from Albany it's focused on Europe—Paris, to be precise, scene of a side trip from England. Being an American without the French language seems to have been a nuisance, but a few fun experiences shine through. Gentle and friendly writing. (HL-6r)

★★★★★

BVI-CENTRAL #8-6 ($1 from J. LeRoy, PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826-4843): More personal musings (well, more like rantings, actually) from one of the founders of the BVI network. In this issue he goes on about abortion rights and flag burnings, and presents several amusing plays (in one of which God falls out of a refrigerator) to demonstrate his points. A personal cry of outrage against current political trends. (HL-20t)

★★★★★

BVI-GREAT LAKES #9 ($1 from Ann LeRoy, PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826-4843): Another chapter in Ann's search for "people who can deal with my non-exclusionary ideas about human relationships." It's the story of a night of friends, drugs, not-great sex and not-quite togetherness, told bluntly and honestly over a background of collages. (HL-20t)

★★★★★

THE BVI WOOLITE UPDATE (25¢ from PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826-4843): A single page about one of the missing news events of 1989, the Woolite shortage & scare. It reports on the political repercussions of this event and includes a gratuitous picture of a nude woman. Pretty off the wall. (S-1)

★★★★★

CAINTEANNA NA LUISE #33 ($4 *CASH/Postal MO* from John Kellnhauser, PO Box 4009, Stn. E, Ottawa, ONT, K1S 5B1, CANADA): A rather serious zine of Irish and Druidic culture and history, featuring large chunks written in Gaelic (mostly with translations). There are bits of travelogues, book reviews, and thoughts on Druidic and other pagan theologies. Well-written but a tad impenetrable for the new reader. (HL-12r)

★★★★★

THE CALL MAGAZINE Vol. 4 #10 ($12/12 issues from 2148 Braeburn East Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46219): Music coverage centered on the club scene in and around Indianapolis. In addition to providing an advertising vehicle so readers can know what's up, they profile many of the groups passing through. A few in #10: Molly Hatchet, 38 Special, Tanya Tucker, and the Rainmakers. A few album reviews round out the offerings here. (T-36t)

★★★★★

CAMPUS REVIEW Vol. 5 #6-7 ($$5/yr from 336 S. Clinton #16, Iowa City, IA 52240): A conservative student paper presenting "The Right Side of the Story". While in some cases this results in closely-reasoned political analysis, of late their homophobic bent has been becoming increasingly strident and offensive. #7 is an above average issue, with a multi-page debate on drug legalization that actually manages to present several sides of the issue. (T-20t)

★★★★★

THE CANADIAN WRESTLING REPORT Vol. 5 #2 ($1 from Greg Oliver, 15 Penrose Ave., Kitchener, ONT, N2A 1E9, CANADA): This northern wrestling report is still concentrated on the American scene, but it has some promise. It's graphic design is well-done, but held back by the dot-matrix printing. The editor tends to be pretty opinionated about the various promotions, and the viewpoint is his unmarred by letters. Plenty of gossip to boot. (S-6)

★★★★★

CAN WE NEWSLETTER #38 (Donation from PO Box 2152, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814-1913): A small newsletter from Citizens Against Nuclear War and Extermination. Although the disarmament movement seems to have retreated somewhat over the past seven years or so, they're still hanging in there, fighting the nearby Hanford nuke reservation, and generally spreading news. Food irradiation gets much of the space in #38. (L-2)

★★★★★

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT COMPUTER MART Vol. 1 #5 (50¢ from PO Box 402, Schenectady, NY 12301): This one is designed as a giveaway for the Albany area, aimed at computer buyers and supported by ads for the local stores. Besides this, they run reviews, articles (one this time dicusses the basics of CAD), and a serialized computer-art comic strip. (T-8t)

★★★★★

CAPRA #80 ($2 from marc C. Reed, PO Box 18293, Milwaukee, WI 53218): A spot for film-lovers to discuss their interests, plus some of the usual apa chitchat. Most of this one consists of reviews and critical essays, with *Batman* coming in for a lot of interest in #80. Joan Marie Verba, for example, presents a 22-page analysis & summary of that film, as well as a similar look at Star Trek V. (S-169)

★★★★★

CAR CORRAL Oct. 10, 1989 ($1.95 from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): One of the latest of the specialty magazines put out by Krause Publications. This one is for the auto enthusiast, offering a nationwide marketplace in both whole cars and parts. From a 1953 Jaguar for sale for $42,000 to someone looking for 3.7:1 differential for a 1935 Plymouth, it's all here. There's also a listing of car shows in the back. There were times years ago when I would have killed for a magazine like this. (S-140t)

★★★★★

THE CARD #1 (Sample on request from Bob Nate c/o Razor Records, PO Box 1106, New York, NY 10011): A single page on heavy stock, with reviews, stories, and whatnot. #1 includes a couple of restaurant tips, a very short story, and a column of music reviews including Nap Shakespeare, who sounds like a real winner. (S-1)

★★★★★

CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER Vol. 9 #8/10 ($10/yr from Friends for Jamaica, PO Box 20392, Park West Finance Stn., New York, NY 10025): A roundup of news from the Caribbean, with a generally leftist political slant. What this means is that you get news that doesn't otherwise hit the US media, notably continuing coverage of the Bishop trial in Grenada. There's also a look at the elections in Belize and the currency crisis in Jamaica in this issue. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE CARING CONNECTION Vol. 5 #11 (SASE from Phyllis A, Burns, 3060 Bridge St. #342, Brighton, CO 80601): The normal sample price is $2, so be sure to mention you saw it here. This is a publication for those with various disabilities and those who participate in their care, with a mix of medical, legal and social news. They tip people off to new products and provide a supportive atmosphere of "Caring for the caregivers". They also print some short poetry. (S-6)

★★★★★

THE CARNIFEX NETWORK Vol. 1 #2 ($1 *CASH* from PO Box 479164, Chicago, IL 60647): A somewhat grody zine for the future. They give a forum to all sorts of unpopular stuff: The novels of de Sade, skinhead sex comics, (in fact all sorts of underground sex is one of their prime fascinations), an anti drugwar rant, and more. Suzanne O'Shea contributes a stunning front cover as well. (S-12t)

★★★★★

CATHARSIS MONTHLY #4-5 ($1 from PO Box 3181, Suffolk, VA 23434): A mix of popular culture and complaint about the local arbiters of the same. Having had some success with ragging on the local oldies radio station, they're now going after the local music showcase. There's also reviews from print and musical arenas, bits of gossip, and a Ramones interview (in #4), all jammed into a dense, confusing layout. #5 includes a talk with an outspoken local DJ. (T-16t)

★★★★★

CATHEDRAL OF INSANITY #9 ($2 from Julie Luce, 1216 W. Ivesbrook, Lancaster, CA 93534): Yarn-bound short stories and poetry, including the excellent though brief "Onion" from the editor in this issue. There's a humorous edge to much of the prose writing, but there is also a rebellious core—laughter in the face of oppression. Very friendly feeling. (D-12)

★★★★★

CATHEDRALS OF THE DAMNED #3 ($2 from Lonepath Ltd., 1076 Curran St., Atlanta, GA 30318): A continuing apocalyptic comic adventure. The characters here are a mix of angels, vampires and other beings. There are some links to a standard Christian mythology, but it appears that the denizens of Hell may be the good guys here. Sex, decadence, mysticism and convolutions. (S-20)

★★★★★

CAULDRON Vol. 1 #3 (Donation from 810 Arch, Ann Arbor, MI 48104): A grassroots anarchist zine run by a collective. There's a pile of reporting from the summer's anarchist gathering in this issue. Other topics include abortion rights, AIDS actions, and how to get the idea of anarchy across to others. They also publish fiction and poetry with a liberatory slant. (T-16t)

★★★★★

CELTIC DAWN 4 (£3.5 from Prebendal Press, PO Box 30, Thame, OX9 3AD, UK): A journal of literature, poetry, and other things. They skip from topic to topic, touching down with an article about RE/SEARCH and later with one on Magnus Hirschfeld, a pioneer of sexology. Of note is their far-ranging section of poetic translations, including works from Persian, Egyptian, and Polish as well as the more usual Romance languages. (S-56t)

★★★★★

CELTIC FRINGE Vol. IV #1 ($Sample on request from 6146 W. Giddings St., Chicago, IL 60630): News from the ring of Celtic areas surrounding the British Isles. #1 has further discussion of a recent book which lays bare some of James Joyce's intimate letters. There's also a primer on Celtic Spirituality by Maureen Nowortya, and a batch of smaller news bits. (S-12)

★★★★★

C.E.M. NEWS Beltane 1989 ($1.50 from PO Box 1652, Bethany, OK 73008): That stands for Children of the Earth Mother, a pagan group with a strong environmental slant. Indeed, much of the news in here is on the environment, without specific pagan references. They also track media mentions and urge their readers to work to combat stereotypes. Calendars, myths and essays fill in the gaps. (S-26)

★★★★★

THE CENTRIC Aug/Sept. 1989 ($1 (?) from The Center, 10450 Stancliff #100, Houston, TX 77099): This one comes from the Esoteric Philosophy Center, a New Age teaching organization, and it's part magazine and part course catalog. They feature a calendar of local events plus articles on numerology, runes, self-development, what's going on in Sedona, and so on. (T-16t)

★★★★★

CERES ORGANICS #1 (Sample on request from PO Box 14338, Madison, WI 53714): A new tabloid that's trying to pull together information about organic food and other alternative agriculture news of interest to farmers or consumers. The first issue features some basic definitions, notes on desertification, a sprinkling of news bits, and a list of valuable contact addresses. Looks promising. (T-8t)

★★★★★

CERES QUARTERLY Fall 1988 (Donation from Geneva Hagen, Site L, Comp. 21, RR1, Kispiox Rd., Hazelton, BC, V0J 1Y0, CANADA): No connection from the above, this one comes from the Convocation of Earth Religions to End Starvation—in other words, pagans focused on actions to help ease world hunger. They coordinate their charitable giving to give more to specific projects. The newsletter also prints articles on food politics and economics. (S-21)

★★★★★

CFRA BULLETIN #83-84 ($1 (?) from Bob Kirlin, E. 7609 Marietta, Spokane, WA 99212): The official organ of the College Football Researchers Association, a group who are fascinated by both football and statistics. Their interests include records of past seasons, arguments about who was the best at various positions, and ways to simulate football in a boardgame setting. (S-20)

★★★★★

CHAIN LETTER X-CHANGE #1 (SASE from Drumbeat Productions, 231 E. 29 #113, New York, NY 10016): This is essentially a way to get chain letters more widespread; the editor reproduces the ones he gets and sends them out as a packet. I suspect it will lead to quicker breakdown of the chains, based on past experience with other such schemes, but maybe not with tapesters and small publishers involved. (S-4)

★★★★★

CHEMICAL IMBALANCE Vol. 2 #1 ($4 from PO Box 1656, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276): Sure, this looks like a music zine, and it's even got some reviews and features on folks like NRBQ as well as a four-track hard-vinyl EP, featuring Sun Ra, Band of Susans, Ut and Head of David. But there's lots more here, chiefly amazing twisted artwork (front cover by Charles Burns, back by Joe Coleman, both in full color) and words from the edge (including an unpublished Lester Bangs article). Best selection of underground book reviews in the business and verbal spurts from John Bennett are added bonuses. Pretty much a must for the underground culture devotee. (S-138t)

★★★★★

CHOKEHOLD #15 ($1 from Lance LeVine, 3113 S. Parnell, Chicago, IL 60616): A wrestling newsletter which isn't afraid to say nasty things about some of the other wrestling newsletters, though that certainly isn't the main topic here. The major subject in #15 is the firing of Paul E. Dangerously from the NWA, with Lance's thoughts on what it means for the company. There's also a batch of reader letters and a few other odds and ends. (S-8)

★★★★★

CHRISTIAN ANTI-COMMUNISM CRUSADE Vol. 29 #19-20 (Donation from PO Box 890, Long Beach, CA 90801-0890): A hardcore voice of opposition to Communism in all its forms, from the original theories of Marx to their current implementation in various states. #20 suggests that even with Gorbachev's reforms the Communist system is rotten to the core. (S-8t)

★★★★★

CHRISTIAN COUNTER-REVOLUTION BULLETIN #65 ($1 from PO Box 369, Lake Worth, FL 33460): This one comes from a group who feel that Vatican II marked such a break with the teachings of the Catholic Church that the succeeding Popes are all one-world promoting heretics. I certainly can't follow their theological arguments myself, but it seems to me unlikely that this is the first time ever the church has changed the way it does business. (S-8)

★★★★★

CHRISTIAN*NEW AGE QUARTERLY Vol. 1 #4 ($2.50 from Bethsheva's Concern, PO Box 276, Clifton, NJ 07011-0276): These folks are looking for similarities, or at least points of contact, between the more liberal Christian faiths and the more liberal pagan and New Age ones. There's a lot to be found, apparently, since there are folks holding good humanistic values in each camp. Perhaps the promotion of dialogue will lead to a greater understanding in the future. (HL-16)

★★★★★

CHRISTIAN VISION ($5/yr from Skysong Press, RR1, Washago, ONT, L0K 2B0, CANADA): A specialized marketing zine for writers, poets and artists producing work with an implicitly or explicitly Christian message. They tell who's buying and what they want, and give some hints for writers trying to develop. (D-12t)

★★★★★

THE CHRISTIAN WORLD REPORT Vol. 1 #7 ($9.95/6 months from 3748 Pardee, Dearborn, MI 48123): This one is a monthly designed to give its readers "all the vital news and Christian perspective that the Godless liberal media just won't tell me!". They seem to swallow most of the outrageous stances of the Christian right, from the dangers of D&D to the idea that US taxpayers are supporting Gorbachev financially, without debate. Lead article this time is about Operation Rescue volunteers being beat up by cops. (T-24t)

★★★★★

CHICKEN SLACKS #4 ($3 from Mary Fleener, 309 Oceanview Ave., Encinitas, CA 92024): This one's got a natural combination: underground comics and punk music. A whole batch of cool artists pick out some of their favorite songs, and illustrate them, making this a sort of paper comp album. Selections include Bob X with a Legendary Pink Dots tune, Wayne Honath doing Half Japanese, John MacLeod with the Pixies "Cactus", and Dennis Worden covering the Angry Samoans tune "Lights Out". A scary world of words and images. (D-36)

★★★★★

CIDERMASH Fall 1989 ($1 from Waxing Gibbous Press, PO Box 10239, Portland, ME 04104): A new large-format litmag for writers and artists from Maine. It's notable for the complete lack of editorial intrusion; the stories and photos and drawings are left to speak for themselves. Some do, some don't; there's a lot of experimentalism here, a sometimes over-conscious striving for new thoughts in traditional forms. But the best (like Carrie Bradley's "Three (love) Stories That Turn Upon Anatomy") are worth getting to. (T-32t)

★★★★★

CINEMAPHOBIA #3 ($8.50/6 issues from Robert Carobene, PO Box 620, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365): Movie coverage that seems to concentrate more on the people and studios behind the films than the films (mostly genre and B) themselves. #3 has a bit of Alyce Wittenstein's latest film, plus an interview with H.G. Lewis and a feature on Brooklyn's Vitagraph studios. (S-24t)

★★★★★

CLEVELAND ANSIBLE #4 (Sample on request from PO Box 14841, Cleveland, OH 44114): This is a SF fan publication from people who describe themselves as "new fans". What this means is that writing and zines are not their entire lives—they also go to conventions and pay attention to movies and TV. They're not quite what are called "media fans" in that their interests are broader. Anyhow, this has reports on various conventions plus notes on media offerings including Beauty and the Beast and Doctor Who. (S-16)

★★★★★

CLIPOPHILIA #5 (Clippings, stamps or donation from PO Box 5671, Portland, OR 97228): A collection of clippings from reasonably reputable newspapers—no supermarket tabloids here—which highlight the bizarre and funny side of life. Pampered dogs, Santeria rites, foot smell research, Morton

Downey the recording artist, and lots more fill the pages. Life may be strange around the country, but rarely dull. (S-32t)

★★★★★

COALITION FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS NEWSLETTER Vol. 14 #9-10 (Donation from PO Box 1911, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1911): Grassroots news from and for prison activists. Much of this is excerpted from letters from those behind bars. They cover everything from new legal requirements and cases to the continued overcrowding and shameful conditions in the nation's prisons. (HL-8)

★★★★★

COLD VOMI #1 ($1.50 *CASH* from Julie Doucet, CP 553, Succ. C, Montreal, QC, H2L 4K4, CANADA): A new title from Julie, not as rude as some of the things she's printed in the past. It features a variety of work, some in French, some in English, with an overall underground slant. Strange mechanical-looking folks, vomit mazes, collage, street life, rubber stampings...A jagged-edge collection from the underground. (HL-24)

★★★★★

COLLINWOOD REVISITED #11 ($10/7 issues from Bruce Yarbor, 2306 N. MacArthur, Oklahoma City, OK 73127): A Dark Shadows fanzine that packs a lot in. They have plenty of space for new DS fan fiction, plus comics and puzzles. There's also reviews of the series in every medium from comics to television, plus a rundown on various fan clubs and even some articles on general vampirology. (S-38)

★★★★★

COLTSFOOT Vol. X #5 ($10/6 issues from Rt.1 Box 313A, Shipman, VA 22971): A zine for those who are fascinated with the myriad uses of wild plants, both dietary and medicinal. A number of readers contribute steadily, and the articles are generally first-rate and documented. Yarrow and Cayenne both get extended examinations in #5; I didn't dream the latter had medicinal uses. (D-22r)

★★★★★

COLUMBIA #14 ($4.50 from 404 Dodge Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027): "A Magazine of Poetry & Prose" with a few dry stretches but much good work. The latter includes a round-table discussion of minimalism, a story by Stewart O'Nan, and a special section on "The Geography of Memory", exploring the transformation of places from being outside of us to being inside. They're currently (until April 1) reading submissions for next year's issue. (D-216t)

★★★★★

COMBAT SPORTS #117 ($2 from PO Box 651, Gracie Stn., New York, NY 10028-0011): A long-running sports fanzine which these days focuses on wrestling and roller derby (the new improved version, with the figure-8 track and the jump). There's a mix of gossip, hard news, and sales pitches for everything from videos to "action figure" (we used to call them dolls) trading here. Editor Michael O'Hara also puts out the one-page **COMBAT SPORTS*GRAM** of late breaking news, of which you can get a free sample issue. (S-16)

★★★★★

COMICS F/X #12 ($1 from PO Box 95968, Seattle, WA 98145-2968): Wide-ranging coverage of the small press comics field. Besides reviews, they feature a lot of reporting on current events, with plenty of pictures of the people involved—a nice touch. There's also tips on how to produce good comics from Matt Feazell and others, opinion columns, and a few letters plus lots of news. An important center of one particular network. (T-32)

★★★★★

COMIC TRASH #5 IRCs from Fredy Engel, Unistr. 5, 48 Bielefeld 1, WEST GERMANY): Aggressive comics, mainly of European origin—though Jeff Gaither's mutilated monsters fit right in. Captions are in a mix of English and German, and the subjects are mostly dark, violent, or downright disgusting. Includes a miniposter of a grinning cyclops skull with one glaring eye. (A4-48)

★★★★★

COMIC UPDATE #107-108 (50¢ from P.D. Wilson, 3414 4th Ave., Columbus, GA 31904): This mini newsletter no longer has any connection with the acerbic Andrew Roller; Wilson seems to have hijacked the title. Inside is a confusing welter of small press comics backbiting and intrigue, plus a few short reviews. (M-8)

★★★★★

COMIX WAVE #82 ($7.50/yr from Clay Geerdes, PO Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707): A one-sheet meander through current comics, mainly underground and independent. There's excerpts from current books, short reviews and news, and in this issue an article on magic in the comics (and the real world, for that matter). (S-2t)

★★★★★

THE COMMUNION LETTER Vol. 1 #2 ($20/4 issues from PO Box 1975, Boulder, CO 80306-1975): Whitley Streiber may be a kook, but by all accounts he's an extremely sincere kook. The author of COMMUNION claims that "The Visitors" are still coming to harass him at his cabin, and has started this newsletter to link together others with similar experiences. They're also involved with things like MRI scans on the heads of folks who remember "implants" from these visits. (S-12t)

★★★★★

COMMUNITY Sept.-Nov. 1989 ($25/yr from PO Box 131, Albany, NY 12201): This is the "Newsletter of the Capital District Lesbian and Gay Community Center". Most of their space is devoted to keeping people up to date on gay and lesbian events in this area, but they also publish letters and occasional reviews and articles. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE COMPLEAT MOTHER Fall 1989 ($10/yr from Jody McLaughlin, 720 4th Ave. NW, Minot, ND 58701): A resource magazine for those interested in alternatives surrounding childbearing: birth free of the medical establishment, breastfeeding, midwifery, waterbirthing (there's a lovely article on that subject in this issue), circumcision avoidance, raising kids independently, and much more. Zillions of little news bits and informative first person stories in each issue. (S-64t)

★★★★★

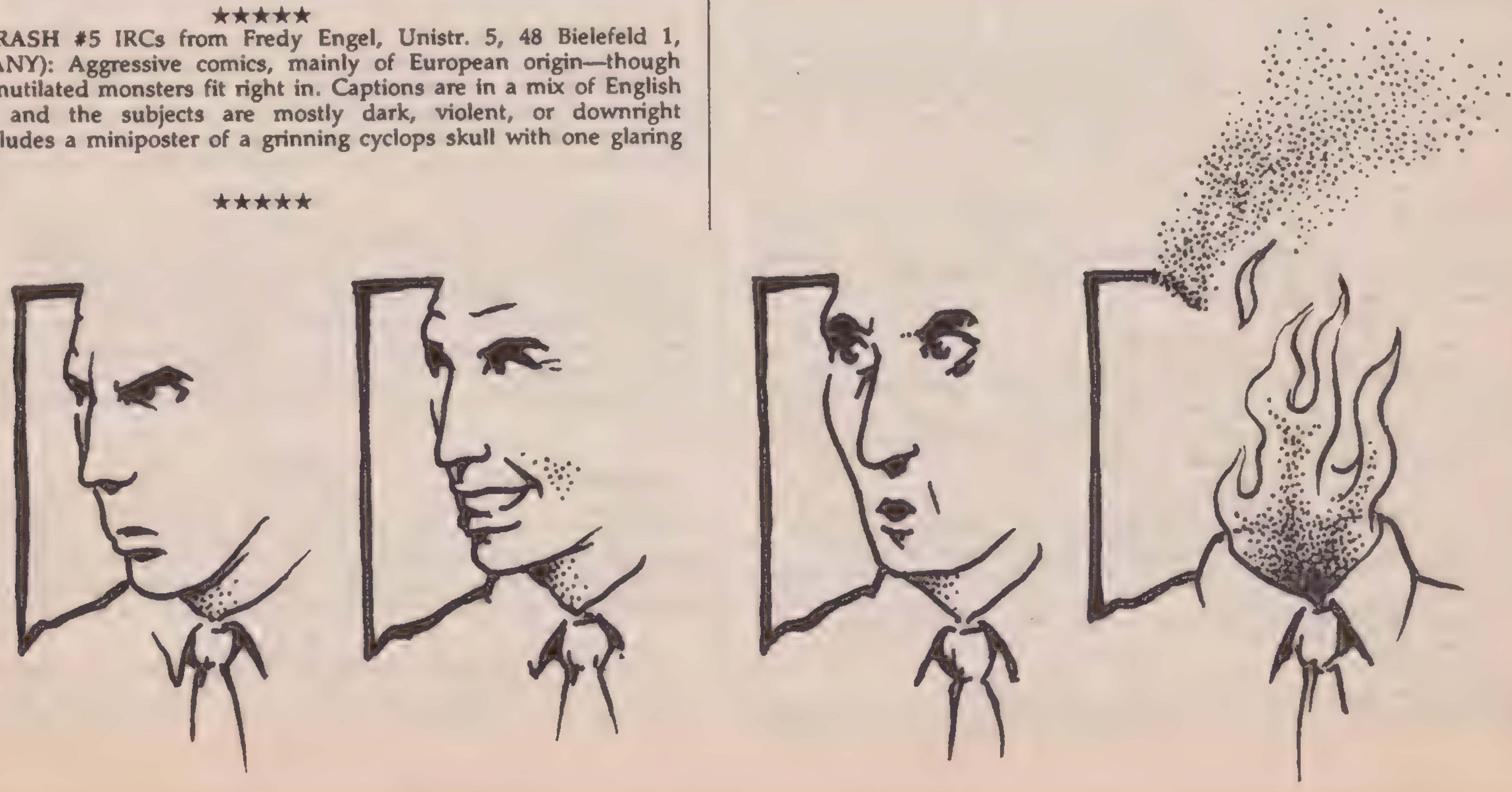
COMPLEX CHATTER #1-3 (SASE (?) from Samuel Shiffman, 320 Montgomery St., Highland Park, NJ 08904): A quickie music newsletter for folks in the central Jersey scene. Sam reviews some current music and clues his readers in on what's happening in the club scene—so any bands traveling to the area should drop him a note. Also includes short opinion pieces and announcements. (S-2r)

★★★★★

COMPOST MODERN LIFE #2 (One 25¢ stamp from Sean Wolf Hill, 2730 Monroe-Concord Rd., Troy, OH 45373): This is a small, no-frills newsletter published to promote a lifestyle "based on simplicity and conviviality". This issue is mostly dedicated to plastics and plastic recycling, with a wealth of information collected in one place. Sean also writes of his battle with the burdock and a few other odds and ends. (S-4r)

★★★★★

COMPOST NEWSLETTER Mabon-Samhain '89 ($2 from Valerie Walker [note "for CNL" on check], 729 5th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118): A pagan zine with a wild sense of humor and a love affair with modern technology; these folks even have a Disk of Shadows rather than a Book of Shadows.



They also have a lot of fun, thinking nothing of running a batch of art and collages in the Mabon issue, dedicated to the collective unconscious (which also had an eerie premonition of the SF earthquake). Unique and thought-provoking. Samhain has Light Bulb Jokes for Witches and a wickedly funny pamphlet for the annual "Spinal Trance" ritual. (S-20t)

★★★★★

CONCERTINA & SQUEEZEBOX #20-21 ($4.50 from PO Box 2343, Bellingham, WA 98227): This one is clearly a labor of love, and it's of exceedingly high quality. It's devoted to all sorts of free reed instruments, their manufacturers, and their players. Contents include stories on particular musicians, notes on the history of squeezebox variants, and technical treatises on their construction and repair. Unique and interesting even to one who hasn't played such an animal for about twenty years. (HL-52t)

★★★★★

THE CONNECTION #161 ($20/8 issues from Erwin S. Strauss, PO Box 3343, Fairfax, VA 22038): This apa for libertarians, anarchists, and other political troublemakers continues to generate lots of heat and perhaps even a little light. Strategies for getting freedom advocated here range from positive thinking to doing drugs to successful capitalism to shooting the police. Connectors have fun writing of their love lives, their businesses, their intellectual positions, and what idiots their opponents are. High-pressure debate. (D-88r)

★★★★★

CONNEXIONS #49 ($17.95 from 427 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ONT, M5S 1X7, CANADA): This is the annual directory issue of this periodical, a fat perfect-bound book. It lists addresses, contact information, activities and purposes for some2700 social change groups and periodicals, the vast majority of them in Canada. These are organized in broad categories ("Native Peoples", "Economy, Poverty, Work") and indexed by name, keyword, and location. Essential for Canadian activists or anyone working with them. (S-224t)

★★★★★

CONSERVATORY OF AMERICAN LETTERS NEWSLETTER Vol. IV #4 ($2 from PO Box 88, Thomaston, ME 04861): These people offer a variety of ways to get your works in print, from an anthology series which they put out to a personal publishing program offering cheap rates on book printing. Much of the newsletter is devoted to explaining what they've been up to and plan for the future. But there are also folks like Sesshu Foster looking outside to the trends in the wider literary world. (S-8t)

★★★★★

CONTACT! Oct. 1989 ($15/yr from The Humanist Fellowship of San Diego, PO Box 87662, San Diego, CA 92138): A small newsletter of stuff for humanists—"people who affirm that the quality of human experience is a human responsibility"; one way to think of them is as less-shrill atheists. Anyhow, this is full of quotes and opinion pieces and notes on meetings and events and bits of history about famous humanists. Low-budget but well-packed. (S-9)

★★★★★

CONVERGING PATHS Fall Equinox 1989 ($4 from PO Box 63, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): A somewhat eclectic pagan publication with interests ranging from Gardnerianism (several of their writers are Gardnerians) to home schooling. This issue includes several pieces on hiving, since some of the folks involved with the zine have just finished doing so. There's also a look at the Lascaux mythos, children's art, poetry and ritual. (S-32)

★★★★★

CONVOLUSIONS Vol. 1 #5-6 (1 IRC from Cerebral Shorts, 5/143 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood 3184, AUSTRALIA): An international mail-art networking magazine with quite an appealing look to it, including colorful back cover bits. They publish a mix of mail art works, show announcements, and notes on other addresses of interest. There's also a register of lost people, in case you have any addresses you're hunting for. #6 has pages from (among others) Luke McGuff and the Crackerjack Kid. (A5-16t)

★★★★★

THE COOL TRAVELER NEWSLETTER Oct./Nov. 1989 ($10/4 issues from PO Box 11975, Philadelphia, PA 19145): A magazine about place. Readers write in to tell about their own home or places they've been lately, in poetry and in prose. This issue ranges from Poland to Paris, Missouri to Ireland. Includes some photos as well. (HS-22)

★★★★★

COOL RUNNINGS Vol. 6 #5 ($8/yr from PO Box 740334, Houston, TX 77274-0334): A music tabloid dedicated solely to reggae music from around the world. This issue leads off with an interview with Lt. Stitchie and another with Foundation. Inside there's also coverage of the latest Sunsplash festival. Seems knowledgeable and committed. (T-20t)

★★★★★

COUNTER INFORMATION #24 (Donation from Pigeonhole CI, c/o 11 Forth St., Edinburgh, UK): An anarchist paper which promotes action and defiance in many forms. Poll tax resistance is their current biggest organizing issue, and it appears they are part of a broad coalition having a substantial effect. There's also plenty of other news about labor and anti-racist actions in the UK and Europe. (T-4t)

★★★★★

THE CPSR NEWSLETTER Vol. 7 #3 ($40/yr from PO Box 717, Palo Alto, CA 94302-0717): This one comes from Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, though I think they'll let most anyone join and get it. This issue is mostly dedicated to a look at simulation, with many cautions about the use of untested computer games to make decisions in areas like nuclear war planning. Well-written and -referenced. (S-20t)

★★★★★

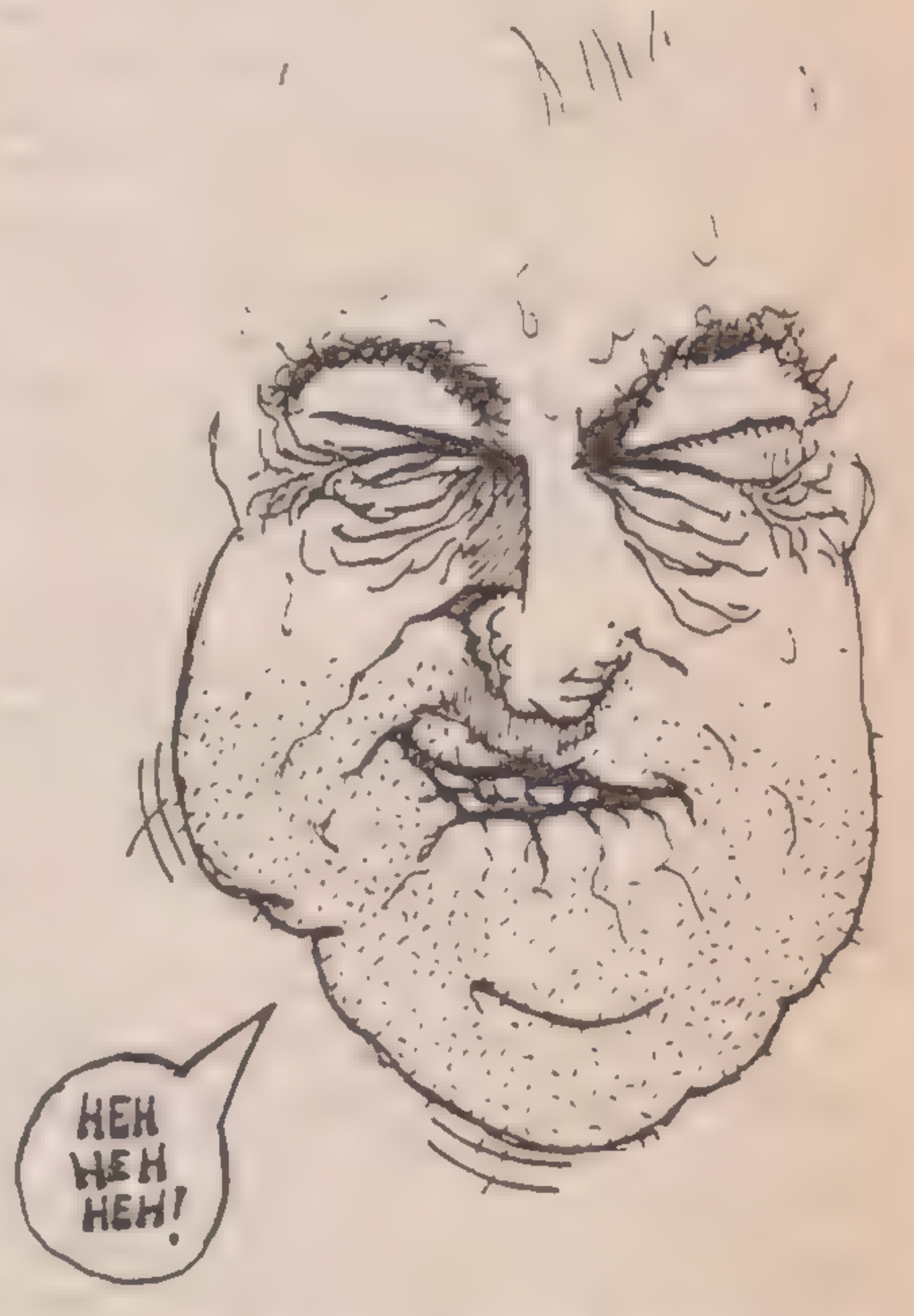
CRAWL OR DIE #9-10 (SASE from Scott Miller, PO Box 8531, Salem, MA 01971-8531): A small and irregular zine that starts out from music but wends its way into a plethora of bizarre cultural artifacts. #9, for example, excerpts a classic book on farting. #10 has some strange sexual anomalies and reviews of hardboiled dick books. Somewhat reminiscent of **MURDER CAN BE FUN** but with a grittier style. (S-6r)

★★★★★

CREATION/EVOLUTION #XXV ($3 from 7 Harwood Dr., PO Box 146, Amherst, NY 14226-0146): Sponsored by the American Humanist Association, this is "a publication dedicated to promoting evolutionary science" which opens its pages to the creationists in the name of debate. As far as I can tell, the creationists come off a lot worse here; their arguments are frequently flawed and their grasp of the scientific method seems poor. (D-56t)

★★★★★

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS #1 ($3 from M. Shane Reynolds, 4262 El Carnal Way, Las Vegas, NV 89121): A new magazine of short fiction and poetry, generally in a fantastic or surreal vein. This is a companion to Shane's **WORLDS OF SURREALISM**, which is more explicitly dream-oriented, created so he wouldn't have to turn down good work. A lot of this stuff is so open-ended as to be unsatisfying, more incident than plot, but there are some quite good pieces and the art is enjoyable if a bit stilted in places. (S-34)



★★★★★

CREATIVE LOAFING Vol. 3 #29 ($1 (?) from PO Box 32546, Charlotte, NC 28232-2546): Not surprisingly, this community paper is filled with Hurricane Hugo jokes and news this time around, including all the rotten stuff off the police blotter that didn't make the news along with the heartwarming stories of people helping people. But there's also local theater, Fred Mills on music fanzines, and an interview with local musician Gina Stewart. (T-16t)

★★★★★

CREDENZA #6 ($8/4 issues from 743 Goodrich, St. Paul, MN 55105): A sort of mixed literary zine, including such diverse topics as a letter from John Bennett to Jake Berry and an excerpt from Jane Addams' writings of Hull House. There are also short stories, a rather tedious tale of lawn ornaments, and a packet of White Boy poems. Somewhat marred by poor copy quality, but still legible. (S-24)

★★★★★

CRITICAL WAVE #13 ($10/6 issues from Tom Hanlon, 1307 Seabord, Baton Rouge, LA 70810-6062): This British SF newszine (Hanlon is the American agent) is mainly concerned with events in the UK, though they do glance across the Atlantic now and then. In a series of concise columns they report on books, fanzines, movies, comics, gossip, and other whatnot. They've grown steadily, and there is no better source for such news. (A4-24r)

★★★★★

CRITIQUE #32 ($5 from PO Box 11368, Santa Rosa, CA 95406): An excellent issue of this journal devoted to breaking people out of their little reality tunnels into the wider world. Centered on the theme of "Psychotherapy & Mysticism", it includes chats with Robert Anton Wilson and Marsha Sinetar, articles by Wilson and Osho Rajneesh, Wilhelm Reich, brain machines, Antero Alli on new psychoses for the New Age and much more. Outrageous and thought-provoking in spots, genuinely informative in others. Book and video reviews provide links out into the wider alternative movements in our society. (S-112t)

★★★★★

CROOKED ROADS Vol. 1 #1 ($1.75 from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): A new journal of personal writing and poetry. There's an exchange on poetry criticism between Carl and Garry De Young, some humor from Neal Wilgus, and a diary of Carl's work as an office temp. He also prints a calender for the next several months, with birthdays and quotes from those apparently important on Carl's Path through life. (S-22t)

★★★★★

CROW #1-3 ($3 from PO Box 4682, Portsmouth, NH 03801): Well, this looks a bit like a literary zine, and in fact contains stories and poems, but there's plenty of other stuff tucked in. For instance, #3 reports on a guy who makes jewelry out of dumpster-dived materials and runs a few music reviews. There are also interviews and stories on artists and a fair dose of social justic stuff. With all this ground to cover the zine's personality is still a bit shaky, but they seem to have the right idea. (S-18)

★★★★★

CRUSADE AGAINST CORRUPTION 10/19/89 (Donation from PO Box 4063, Marietta, GA 30061): Virulent hate literature of the worst kind. Most of this rant (by one "J.B. Stoner, Chairman") is directed against "The Jew Money Power". After a few pages of the usual garbage he moves on to AIDS, which he sees as God's means of salvation for whites, since it's a disease of "jews, negroids or queers". Pretty disgusting stuff. (S-8)

★★★★★

CRYONICS Vol. 10 #10 ($2.50 from Alcor, 12327 Doherty St., Riverside, CA 92503): The newsletter of Alcor, an organization dedicated to the cryonic preservation of people for future revival. #10 reports on more legal hijinks (now the state is going after them for practicing medicine without a license—on a body which the state has previously maintained was dead at the time!) and a longish article on the feasibility of nanotechnological repair of the brain. (HL-62t)

★★★★★

CULTURAL DEMOCRACY #37 ($5 from Alliance for Cultural Democracy, PO Box 7591, Mineapolis, MN 55407): This one is aimed at cultural workers—artists and others—who are interested in promoting cultures beyond the one homogenized facade presented by the media. This issue goes from gay witness in New York to Central America and beyond in an effort to open up space for minority and indigenous cultures. Interesting if somewhat challenging. (S-28t)

★★★★★

CULTWATCH RESPONSE Vol. 1 #6 ($2 from PO Box 1842, Colorado Springs, CO 80901): A sort of Wiccan outreach periodical seeking to educate police and other authorities as to what Witchcraft really is and its lack of connections to cultism, occultism, and alleged sacrifices and sundry other crimes. This issue looks at the beliefs of the Matamoros drug smugglers and tries to define what a legitimate witch is. (HL-8t)

★★★★★

CURLEY RIDES AGAIN (50¢ from Haricots Verts, 468 Anita Dr., Millbrae, CA 94030): Behind the hand-colored cover lurks a cat who talks in parables and obfuscations. There is some timeless wisdom here, but it's well buried in silliness and cat-cuteness. (M-8t)

★★★★★

THE CUTTING EDGE Vol. 6 #8-9 ($1 from Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando, FL 32810): "The Thinking Man's 'Zine", this one is devoted to Christian Contemporary Music. The bulk of it is reviews, all long and thoughtful, which look at the music as well as the ideology and aren't afraid to comment on either. In #8 there's some serialized fiction, a report from Cornerstone '89, and a few notes on evangelism. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE CUTTINGSVILLE TIMES #6 (25¢ from 1612 Broadway, Ann Arbor, MI 48105): A collection of news clippings, commentary and opinion which serves to emphasize what a wacky place the world is. Segregated Iranian ski slopes and the Vice President about to blow his own body to kingdom come with a flamethrower are among the attractions here. Mike Perrini also contributes some observations from an extensive investigation of contemporary job applications. (S-16)

★★★★★

C-VILLE REVIEW Vol. 1 #4 ($25/26 issues from PO Box 565, Charlottesville, VA 22902): A community paper for the Charlottesville area. They cover the local happenings pretty well, with the Virginia Festival of American Film being the main attraction in this issue. There's also opinion pieces and clever features. Much nicer look than most such papers. (T-24t)

★★★★★

THE CYNICAL BLITZ Dec. 1989 (50¢(?) from 519 1/2 Ohio St., Akron, OH 44304): A new handwritten zine that, even with post-printing marginal additions, is still pretty confusing. The editor appears to be trying to get some big concept across, revolving around the manifold uses of the word "what", but doesn't quite succeed. (S-4)

★★★★★

DADDY THE MAGAZINE #1 ($5 & Age Statement from The Ganymede Press, PO Box 5325, Harrisburg, PA 17110-5325): Uncensored "one-handed reading material" for gay males who are attracted to mature (35-65) men. They feature explicit photo spreads of various Daddies, first-person hot stories based on true experiences, plus an advice column and notes on the attractions of Daddies. A pretty impressive premier, and one which apparently fills a void on the market. (D-62t)

★★★★★

DAILY COW #3 (1/2 pint milk or 50¢ from David R. Wyder, 121 Gregory Ave. #B-7, Passaic, NJ 07055): A zine all about cows, filled to the top with horrible puns and silliness. The lead article, for example, is about Al Cowpone's recently-announced "War on Bugs". In addition to the usual mania, cow pinups, and news items, this issue contains a page o the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Rooftop Creatures. (S-16)

★★★★★

DAILY IMPULSE Vol. 5 #15-18 ($1 from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): Anarchy and occasional punk music notes from the Southland. They're putting this thing out in a poster format now, with large graphics on one side and small print on the other. Their continuing series "Chaos: San Diego" attempts to map out some hope for change, while their anti-military message comes through loud and clear. #16 compares modern Libertarianism with anarchism, to the former's detriment. (O-2r)

★★★★★

DANGEROUS TIMES #14 (75¢(?) from Josh Petrin, 32 Chestnut Hill, Greenfield, MA 01301): You could call this a literary zine with a punk slant, or a punk zine with a literary slant, but really it's just Josh printing materials of interest to him. This includes unfinished song lyrics, Ace Backwords cartoons, poetry, bits of anti-Bush editorial matter, and so on. Nice collaged punk layouts. (D-16r)

★★★★★

DANTE'S GAZETTE Vol. 1 #3 (Donation from Calvin Murry #67387, Rt. 1 Box 330, Tiptonville, TN 38079): A journal published from behind bars by a batch of jailhouse lawyers who are trying to spread their knowledge. I think that might be a prison address, in fact, so you should send a few stamps rather than money, or even write before sending anything. They print a mix of reprints and original articles, with the main feature in this issue being a look at the drug problem. (S-11)

★★★★★

DARK CHAOS #11 ($2 from Ed Stasny, 9018 Westridge Dr., Omaha, NE 68124): A mix of comic art, interviews (mostly with artists, including Barry Brandon in this issue) and reviews. Those reviewed, musical or zinewise, can also get free advertising here. Rather dark and moody around the edges, but with a lot of fine work in this issue. (HL-40r)

★★★★★

DARRIS Oct. 1989 ($1.50 from Brenda Richardson, 339 Evelina, New Orleans, LA 70114): This is the "sex" issue of this sort of marginal literary magazine, and they do stick pretty closely to it. There's a story of animals and propositions, and an interview with the Beat Meats, a band as juvenile as their name. Also a few graphics and ideas for buttons. (D-20)

★★★★★

DASEIN #1 ($2 (?) from Steve Finn, U. Of Toronto, Philosophy Dept., 215 Huron St., Torongot, ONT, M5S 1A1, CANADA): A student journal of "philosophy and the arts"—broadly speaking, they explore the human condition and the world with whatever tools are at hand. These range from short stories to comparisons of ancient and modern theories of ontology to criteria for knowing a proposition. Much of this is past my formal training, but looks interesting. (D-60t)

★★★★★

DAVOID #8-9 (50¢(?) from PO Box 348, Hawthorne, NJ 07507): Bizarre comic drawings, with a bit of psychotic humor and a certain absence of plot or normal artistic conventions. These have the look of subconscious nightmares, intensely meaningful to the artist but puzzling to the outsider. Nice style, though. (S-4)

★★★★★

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CITIZEN "J" ($2 *Cash/Stamps* from Mutated Viruses Press, 1094 W. Pratt Blvd. #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Written and drawn by Jack Moskovitz, this minicomic is more than a bit confusing. The art is marginal to lousy, though in a sort of minimalist tradition, rough geometric sketches indicating people and objects. The plot is somewhere between surreal and shaggy dog; indeed "plot" may be too strong a word. Left me cold but then I'm pretty hidebound sometimes. (M-64)

★★★★★

THE DEATH OF BICUSPID BOY (25¢ from C.C. Cilla, PO Box 41302, Tucson, AZ 85717-1302): Bicuspid Boy is this character from some of Chris's other comics, who died in one of them. The title here is somewhat misleading, though, since it's actually the story of how he wasn't killed after all. Confusing, in the manner of most superhero stuff when you haven't read the previous 97 issues. (M-16)

DAILY COW

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★★★★★

DEATHS (50¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520): A nasty little collection of comics and collage that concentrates on the lower d\side of life. This includes violent death, psychotic murderers, police repression, and the general rottenness of the system. No overall plot thread, just a gestalt of unsavory things. (D-8)

★★★★★

THE DECADENT WORKER #158-161 ($1/5 issues from Kerry Thornley, PO Box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307): More ramblings on whatever esoteric subject has struck Kerry's fancy. #159 talks about world hunger, while #160 returns to Lee Harvey Oswald (who served in Kerry's Marine unit) and his weird sense of humor about Communism. (S-1)

★★★★★

DECALCOMANIA #67-69 ($1.25 from Mark Strickert, 3852 N. Oconto, Chicago, IL 60634): For that price you get a special introductory sample of this zine, explaining the concept and organization behind it. Basically, **DECALCOMANIA** is for commercial radio collectors, folks who want to exchange and appreciate taped segments from various stations as well as the assorted ephemera produced by them. (S-16r)

★★★★★

DECAPITATED CATFISH ("Gifts, stamps or embalming fluids" from Katrina Kelly, PO Box 557, 18 Taylor Ave., Earlville, NY 13332): Katrina asks that you not use the zine name on the envelope; it changes every time anyhow. This issue has a Halloween theme, with goofy ideas on what to give the kids and a gruesome story of a trick or treater who comes to mischief. There's also some punk history and a back cover of graffiti. (S-6)

★★★★★

DEE PEE EM #5 ($1.50 from Mike, 65 Farrow Cres., Ajax, ONT, L1S 4W3, CANADA): THIs one is centered on the music area, but Mike includes a lot of personal writing and social activism as well. This issue, for example, ahs a bit on the Lubicon Lake struggle and an interview with folks who put together a coffee house for a youth hangout. There's also the Mr. T Experience and All for those who like music, a char with a fanzine editor, a pile of reviews, and thoughts on why charity is an obligation. An impressively sincere effort. (HL-40r)

★★★★★

THE DEFENSE MONITOR Vol. XVIII #6 ($1 from CDI, 1500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005): The Center for Defense Information "supports an effective defense"—but believes that the strength of the military alone is not a good measure of the country's security. This issue looks at the environmental record of the military, and finds it wanting, particularly in nuclear matters. 15,000 contaminated military waste dumps in the country—ack. (S-8t)

★★★★★

DE MANDRAGER 9/89 ($1 from Marcel Ruyters, P. Jacobsstraat 6, 6133 AM Sittard, NETHERLANDS): A collaborative art effort between Marcel, Daniel Wolfgang Core, and Matthias Giesen. Distorted people, psychic derangement, and bad trips prevail in these drawings, which have the occasional look of classic woodcuts done by monks who'd seen one spirit too many. (A5-24)

★★★★★

DE NAR #37-38 (15 fr. from Frank Geeraert, Bunderdreef 2, 1710 Dilbeek, BELGIUM): I dunno what the price to the states should be, so this might be a good candidate for an IRC inquiry. Provided you can read the language you will find all sorts of reviews and contacts in here, with a generally radical to liberal stance. Zines, events, music, concerts, you name it, they've got it here. Not too bulky but pretty frequent. (A5-32r)

★★★★★

DIALOGUE #82 ($5/yr from PO Box 71221, New Orleans, LA 70172): A community newsletter with an anarchist bent. They keep track of news and events around NoLa, and publish a good deal of analysis besides. This issue looks at the new environmentalism of David Duke and other white supremecists and publishes a lot of stuff from Rachel Rosenthal, a committed performance artist. Free pull-out women's liberation poster in the centerfold. (HL-24r)

★★★★★

THE DIARIES OF NOLA #1-2 ($1.50 & Age Statement from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): Nola is a buxom young lady who sets down at the end of the day to record her adventures in her diary, like any other normal girl. But her adventures tend to involve a lot of well-hung men, other buxom women, and well-oiled hard rubber implements. Sloshy sex on every page. (M-16)

★★★★★

DIARIST'S JOURNAL #22-23 ($2 from 102 W. Water St., Lansford, PA 18232): A paper for those who keep or are interested in diaries—a habit which I suspect is shared by many FF readers. Usually the major feature is excerpts from various diaries sent in by readers, but in #22 Anne Frank gets center stage, with a longish article by Edward Robb Ellis (himself a champion diarizer) and some shorter features. (T-20t)

★★★★★

DIRTY LINEN UPDATE #26A ($15/yr from PO Box 66600, Baltimore, MD 21239-6600): This is the interim newsletter between full-blown issues of the folk-rock zine **DIRTY LINEN**, with which it alternates. New releases and short reviews lead off, but the bulk of this is tour schedules for a huge number of folk-rock people, from Fairport Convention on down. (S-10t)

★★★★★

DISCORDER Oct.-Nov. 1989 ($15/yr from 6138 Sub Blvd., Vancouver, BC, V6T 2A5, CANADA): The music tabloid of CITR, a college radio station out in Canada. The October issue has a fascinating article on the reason they're boycotting Polygram. November has plenty of cool interviews, including Debbie Jaffe, Mojo Nixon, and Swans. And of course they're on top of what's happening around town. Nice graphics, cool format, good attitude. (T-36t)

★★★★★

DISCOTEXT Oct.-Nov. 1989 ($12/12 issues from 1250 Richards St., Vancouver, BC, V6B 3G2, CANADA): The monthly playlist and music zine of Graceland, a nightclub in Vancouver. They've been moving more into music and label reviews lately, and their graphics have vastly improved over the last year or so as well. Now in addition to finding out what's going to be on the turntables any given night, you can get some basic lessons in what it's all about. (S-16t)

★★★★★

DISFIGURATION #6 (3 stamps from MD, 4433 Pershing #202, St. Louis, MO 63108): Formerly **DOING WHAT I CAN**, this is still a music zine with a strongly social conscious slant. They interview Vegan Reich, Powerhouse and Up Front in this issue, concentrating more on questions of diet and lifestyle than anything else. There's also som poetry and, apparently, a feud with **I USED TO BE DISGUSTED** zine. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE DISSIDENT Vol. 1 #3 (Donation from PBGS, 139 Winnona Dr., Decatur, GA 30030): A zine concerned with the state of the world that's trying to do something about it, if only start people thinking. Mainly anarchist in tone (although open to others) it explores things like the idea of justice and the justification for anarchy. Poems, collages, and other artistic expressions are also included. (S-13)

★★★★★

DIXIE VOICE Vol. 3 #16/17 ($4 from Melissa Manuel, Route 2 Box 121-A, Germanton, NC 27019): Music coverage with a Southern tinge (but not an exclusive one—there's a report on a Throwing Muses show here, for example). Major features are on the Replacements, the Connells and REM (the latter including a shot at a complete discography). Mostly live coverage and interviews, with only a few record reviews. (S-64)

★★★★★

DOOR NO. 3 Vol. 1 #2 ($1 from PO Box 598, Brookline, MA 02146): A journal which wants to promote the interchange of arts and ideas in their community.. Having run an interview with an anti-abortionist in the first issue, they give space to some pro-choicers in this one. There's a fine flag-burning poster on the cover, excerpts from the writings of delinquent kids on the inside, wordplay from Bob Black, and a Killing Joke interview, as well as local photography. A mixed but well-done bag. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE DOVETAIL Vol. IV #1 (Donation from Vern Bodkin, Azalea House, 30 Mariner St., Buffalo, NY 14201): A collection of peace and social justice and environmental news and views. Big topics in this issue are the situation in Latin America and the need to ban plastics. They've got a good calendar of local events and some ideas on what people can do to get involved and help out on these and similar issues. (HL-18t)

★★★★★

THE DOWNTRODDEN Vol. I #5 (Donation from Bill Lengeman, 193 S. Railroad St., Hummelstown, PA 17036): A collection of news about human rights abuses, which Bill has culled from a variety of sources. This includes the NY Times, his local papers, US NEWS & WORLD REPORT, and the Guardian. Enough to be scary, not quite enough to be numbing. (S-4)

★★★★★

DRAFT NOtices Vol. 10 #5-6 ($10/yr from COMD, PO Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115): The Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft is still out there, despite the unfashionability of draft resistance these days, and they're still doing good work. For one, this is about the only place I seem to be able to get current news about the various National Service bills in Congress. This issue also looks at military posturing in the Pacific and what it means for the chances of war. (S-8)

★★★★★

DREAMS & VISIONS #1 ($3 from Skysong Press, RR1 Washago, Ont, L0K 2B0, CANADA): This litmag is devoted to "New Frontiers in Christian Fiction", but it's not preachy—the authors here do not cite chapter and verse in their morals, and some stories don't even mention angels or Bibles or Heaven (though some do). Most of this tends towards the fantastic in one way or another, and is well-written. Stories with a purpose. (D-48t)

★★★★★

DRIPPINGWETTE GAZETTE #12 ($1 from PO Box 127, Wickatunk, NJ 07765): Sex, music, Hollywood, New York Clubs, Wigstock, a hooker column...all this and more goes into an issue of **DRIPPINGWETTE**. What comes out is anyone's guess. It's sure to offend your mom, and maybe even you, but it's clear that the writers here are having a good time. Music is ostensibly the central topic, but being young and feisty may well overshadow it. (S-36)

★★★★★

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY Vol. IX #9-10 ($16/12 issues from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): The best source of reviews of new (and reprinted, for that matter) mystery and adventure novels that I know of. **DROOD**'s staff is competent and sensitive, and they can be counted on to view the books they write about both critically and in context. If you're a fan of the field, this is essential. #10 has an excellent special section on the work being done by small presses in the mystery scene. (S-24t)

★★★★★

DSA GREEN NES Vol. 3 #4 ($8/yr from 1608 N. Milwaukee, 4th Fl., Chicago, IL 60647): These folks are out to build "The Next Left" as an alliance between Reds and Greens. With the death of Michael Harrington, one of their leading lights, these folks seem to be returning to an examination of basics. This includes their own draft principles in this issue, plus a review of what went on at the Green platform convention out in Eugene. It's all conducted with a spirit of good faith and exploration. (S-14t)

★★★★★

DUMARS REVIEWS #5 ($1.50 from Terata Publications, PO Box 810, Hawthorne, CA 90251): If you don't get enough reviews in FF, this is one o the next places to go. Denise concentrates on the literary side of things, with lots of reviews of books, chapbooks, zines and even TV shows. There are also restaurant and occult shop reviews, since she doesn't stop at the usual boundaries, and a special section of occult zines. Well-written and concise notes on a variety of publications. (D-28)

★★★★★

DUNGHEAP THE BARBARIAN HAM #1-2 (50¢ from Donald J. Morrison, PO Box 562, Columbia Station, OH 44028-0562): A minicomic parody of Ian Shires' **DUNGAR THE BARBARIAN**. I rather liked the parody somewhat more than the original, nasty as the closing panel is. There seems to be something of Cerberus the aardvark in this porker, as well as the intended barbarian strain. In #2, Dungheap takes on some stick figures who bear a suspicious resemblance to Matt Feazell characters. This could grow into a fun small press parody series. (M-8)

★★★★★

DUPLEX PLANET #101 ($1.50 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): More from the seemingly inexhaustible supply of senior citizen gabfests which David has taken notes on. He asks annoying and silly questions ("If you had a robot what would you want it to do for you?" "Have you ever been to a nudist colony") and records the answers. Fun stuff. (D-16)

★★★★★

DUPREE'S DIAMOND NEWS #12-13 ($2.50 from PO Box 3603, New York, NY 10185): A massive effort at "Documenting the Deadhead Experience", for all fans of the Grateful Dead. In physical look it reminds me of early ROLLING STONEs, and it has some of the same energy. Besides the music they get into all sorts o the things the Dead stand for: Greenpeace, peace, rain forest survival, and so on. The letters are intelligent, the classified ads are manifold, and the spirit is generally positive. (S-42t)

★★★★★

EAR OF CORN #9 ($1 from PO Box 2143, Stow, OH 44224): A small music zine that comes out regularly, prints lots of poetry and a few reviews, and gets an interview or three into each issue. This time they have Mudhead and Icon of Simplicity talking. There's some overall muidwest flavor, but it's not exclusive, and a definite concentration on bands that haven't made it big yet. (D-20r)

★★★★★

EARTH MOTHER WALKS ($4 from Erik Johnson, 118 Forest St., Madison, WI 53705): A beautiful four-color process comic printed by the artist, who has a striking style and makes excellent use of the colors. It's a sort of mythical story, set in either the far future or the far past, with lush scenery, inscrutable idols, and more. An attractive addition to any collection. (D-12)

★★★★★

EASTER ISLE (2 stamps from David Elzay, PO Box 11224, Berkeley, CA 94701-2224): Subtitled "Te-Pito-O-Te-Henua", this one has a traditional Easter Isle hymn to accompany the drawings of the land's enigmatic statues. As strange as its subject. (D-4)

★★★★★

THE ECHO Vol. 60 #12 ($5/12 issues from ECHO/TDC, Huntsville, TX 77342): This one is published by inmates in Texas, and is directed mostly at their fellow inmate population, though they'll be happy to sell subscriptions to anyone. Most of it is prison news, from notes on new construction to programs which offer some hope for the ex-convict. This issue also has a special section of winners of their most recent writing contest, which are very good. (T-16t)

★★★★★

ECHOES 3/89 (10 FIM [MO only, payable to Timo I. Nurmi] from PO Box 93, SF-33501 Tampere, FINLAND): Yup, that's right, Finnish cash only accepted for this music zine. I suppose that makes sense, inasmuch as the entire zine is in Finnish itself. It looks like they go for retro and garage rock, but who can tell for sure? (A5-32r)

★★★★★

ECOMEDIA #59-63 (Donation from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT, M4Y 2N9, CANADA): A biweekly (mostly) collection of news of interest to the anarchist community, both in Toronto and more widely. #59 has notes on the Black Panther Party (inspired by Huey Newton's shooting) and some cranky words about charity. Aboriginal Rights is the big issue in #61, in honor of a year of struggle by the Lubicon people. (HL-4t)

★★★★★

ECOSPIRIT Vol. 5 #3 ($1 (?) from Institute for Ecosophical Studies, c/o Donald St. John, PhD, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA 18018): A place for religious, spiritual, and ecological thought to cross paths and nurture one another. This time almost the entire issue is devoted to Brian Brown's article "Buddhism and the Ecological Perspective", seeking to place this (and all other) religions in an ecological perspective. (S-10)

★★★★★

THE EDGE #1 ($$3.50 [check] or $5 [cash] from Graham Evans, 56 Writtle Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3BU, UK): A new magazine of speculative and horror fiction and essays. The first issue starts off with a fairly strong music-based SF story by Michael Clark, and then moves into some small horror bits. The essays are on everyone from James Sheridan Le Fanu (a nearly forgotten horror writer) to William Gibson and Whitley Streiber. John Light's "The Element Makers" stands out in the fiction section,. Also of note are the zine reviews and the "Vignettes" heading for very short stories. Production in #1 is marginal, but Graham has big plans for a more attractive looking product. (A4-32r)

★★★★★

EELSKIN COMIX (50¢ (?) from 959 Harrison St., Seattle, WA 98109): A minicomic telling the tale of a cheerful but vanishing gardener, and his neighbors' reaction to the mystery. A rather minor effort, but one with a nice feel to it. (M-8)

★★★★★

EFFIGY: THE BURNING TIMES #1 (Donation from 1803 Mission St. #172, Santa Cruz, CA 95060): A new anti-authoritarian newsletter with ties to Ecomedia, the animal rights movement, the Rainbow community, and other alternatives. This first issue tells of confronting a couple cases of racism within the alternative community, and asks for advice on better doing so in the future. From someone who sees all liberation struggles as interconnected. (S-6)

★★★★★

EGG #10 (2 stamps from 3 Wesley Park #4, Somerville, MA 02148): A small collection of inscrutable art, from WWII propaganda to White Boy. You're likely to find stickers or posters or random bits of mail art in with your order as well. (M-8)

★★★★★

THE ELECTRIC PLASTIC INFLATABLE ($4.50 from Steve Stwalley, 141 Green Mountain Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245): A collection of strange psychedelic comics, each copy personalized with a unique sketch on the first page. Steve explores all sorts of dreams, desires, and fantasies, poking fun at mainstream cartoons, reminiscing on childhood and school, and generally being entertaining. As he says on the last page, "If you think you understand, you just haven't looked hard enough." (S-32)

★★★★★

ELECTRONIC COTTAGE #2 ($3 from Hal McGee, PO Box 3637, Apollo Beach, FL 33572): One of the best zines around for keeping track of the highpoints of the underground cassette culture. Hal runs a few reviews but the real thrust here is the articles on the people involved: Chris Phinney, Pat Andrade, Carl Howard, and more. Walter Alter offers some tips for home music production and Zan Hoffman makes a few suggestions along the same lines. Hal is deeply involved in this scene and he knows what he's doing in putting this one together. (HL-68t)

★★★★★

ELLIPSIS... #2 ($22/4 issues from 1176 E. Campbell Ave., Campbell, CA 95008): After only two issues, this new litmag is looking good—and reading good, as well. There's plenty of selection, from stories in a traditional vein to exciting stuff like V.W. Massie's stfnal "Skin Flick" and the curious poetry of Kevin Kantola. Worth keeping an eye on. (D-92t)

★★★★★

THE EMERALD PATH #3 ($20/12 issues from GreenSheep, PO Box 1353FF, Placentia, CA 92670): A zine of esoteric knowledge and practice, with a bit of New Age flavor. Topics here include channeling, the secrets of the Egyptian pyramids, and dream interpretation. GreenSheep also sells books by mail on subjects including shamanism and crystals. (S-12)

★★★★★

ENTRY Vol. 5 #6 ($18/10 issues from PO Box 7648, Ann Arbor, MI

DUMARS REVIEWS SF, HORROR, FANTASY; DUMARS REVIEWS FILMS, VIDEO, MUSIC; DUMARS REVIEWS METAPHYSICS, THE PARANORMAL, SURREALISM. Shouldn't you subscribe to DUMARS REVIEWS today? One year subscription (4 issues) $6.00, sample copy $1.50. Checks payable to Terata Publications, P.O. Box 810, Hawthorne, CA 90251.

DUMARS REVIEWS, SURREALIST OREGON & other Terata products now available at City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco, on the consignment shelves in the Poetry Annex!

48107): The subtitle pretty much says it all here: "a guide to photographic competitions and juried exhibitions". For each of about 35 listings, they give the description of the show, notes on eligibility and entry fees, submission and awards information, a list of judges, and notes on how to get more information. Looks useful for the serious photographer. (S-8t)

★★★★★

ERC NEWSLETTER Oct.-Nov. 1989 ($10/yr from PO Box 81, Floyd, VA 24091): Whatever else they have in Floyd, they've got an alternative community. This is the voice of that community, with articles on ritual and crafts, a calendar and news of upcoming and past events. Various workshops, poetry and other small things float through these pages as well. (S-6)

★★★★★

EROTICA 69 #1 ($3 from PO Box 37317, Milwaukee, WI 53237): A collection of the best material from recent issues of APA-69, the sexually-oriented amateur press association. The pieces here range from erotic fiction to theoretical treatises on oral sex to porn video ratings to an examination of jealousy. Some bits are hot, others fall flat, at least for me. A better mimeography job would have helped. (S-48)

★★★★★

ETERNAL TORMENT #7 ($5 *CASH* from Marcin Wawrzynczak, ul. Krasinskiego 38c/39, 01-779 Warsaw, POLAND): A mammoth Engligh-language heavy metal music zine—I'm surprised Marcin gets away with printing this thing. I guess the political climate must really be changing. Anyhow he interviews and features dozens of bands from across the US and Europe, prints plenty of pictures, and has a special section in the back for horror movie reviews. An impressive and feisty publication, averaging about one swear word every other sentence. (A4-76r)

★★★★★

ETHEL THE AARDVARK #26 ($12/6 issues from Melbourne Science Fiction Society, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, 3055, AUSTRALIA): A fairly traditional science fiction zine from a continent where SF fandom still seems to be primarily written-word oriented...or perhaps that's an illusion caused by distance. Anyhow, they review books and print the minutes of their meetings, mention new additions to the library, and publish silly cartoons. Real nice cover on this issue: "Death Takes a Holiday", by Ian Gunn. (A4-20t)

★★★★★

EUROPEAN TRASH CINEMA #4-5 ($6/12 issues from Craig Ledbetter, PO Box 5367, Kingwood, TX 77325): A small video review scene that concentrates exclusively on foreign films, carving out its own niche in the review market despite its low-cost look. In addition to the usual reviews, #4 has a short interview with actor Victor Israel. #5 includes a reference list of films from major foreign directors available in the US. (D-8r)

★★★★★

THE EVENT #31 ($14/4 issues from PO Box 203, Pequannock, NJ 07440): "The Journal of Clothes-Optional Living on the Eastern Seaboard" is devoting an awful lot of pages to legal struggles lately. It seems that the Federal government, faltering in the war on drugs, is at least determined to make sure women keep their tops on at the beach. In between the latest cases, there are reports on various naturist gatherings, notes on where to go naked on this end of the country, letters and opinion columns. (S-36t)

★★★★★

EVERYONE'S BACKYARD Vol. 7 #3 ($25/yr from CCHW, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216): The journal of Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste, a coalition of grassroots groups fighting to keep toxic trash out of our communities. This issue looks at the Bush administration's record of cleanup so far, and finds it decidedly wanting. They offer many organizing and research resources at good prices. (S-8t)

VIOLENT COMICS?! IS THAT ALL YOU WANT?! BLOOD?! YOU WANT BLOOD?! HERE'S SOME BLOOD!!

★★★★★

EXPERIMENTAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS Vol. V #3 ($3.50 from PO Box 784, Nicasio, CA 94946): This is a fun publication for people who want to get off the beaten musical track. It features all sorts of improvised instruments, with notes on their construction, acoustics, and historical roots. There are also reviews of articles in other journals, sound sculptures, and ideas for music for young people. Technically astute but very readable nonetheless. (S-24)

★★★★★

EXPRESSO TILT! #9 ($2 from Mike Walsh, 737 Wharton St., Philadelphia, PA 19147): A selection of humor and stories about real people and places that happen to be a bit off the wall. I really enjoyed the article on "S.P. Dinsmoor and his Garden of Eden", one of those bizarre middle American cultural sites, in this issue. Other nice bits include the comics and the horoscope telling about your next air disaster. (S-32t)

★★★★★

EXQUISITE CORPSE Vol. 7 #6/7/8/9 ($2.50 from PO Box 25051, Baton Rouge, LA 70894): A literary zine which publishes lots of poems and very short stories; however, what sets them apart is the idea pieces. Sometimes these seem designed merely to enrage, but often they hit the mark. In this issue Curtis Olson rants about his drunk driving ticket and Exxon, while William Levy tackles the current wave of "standards" for porn writing. Henry Wessels has a nice page of New Orleans photos as well. (O-28t)

★★★★★

EXTRA! Vol. 2 #7/8 ($9 from FAIR, 130 W. 25th St., New York, NY 10001): This is a special quadruple-size issue of the magazine of Fairness & Accuracy In reporting, a group which examines critically the news media and what they're feeding us. Devoted to human rights, it has dozens of stories, on the selling of Reagan's Nicaragua policy, the problems of the press in various trouble spots, the treatment of the Sanctuary movement, and much, much more. Empowering in what it reveals, but depressing in its documentation that the major papers and TV stations really don't give a damn. A useful reference tool. (S-64t)

★★★★★

EXTRAORDINARY SCIENCE Vol. 1 #3 ($20/4 issues from High Energy Enterprises, PO Box 5636, Security, CO 80931): This one is notable for mixing things generally condemned as pseudoscience (scalar electromagnetics, vortexian mechanics) with straightforward lab plans (make your own superconductor following the instructions in this issue). They're interested in all sorts of strange energy topics, from Tesla to the Searl Motor. They also publish articles on things like attempts to communicate with UFOs. Very open-minded but not out of touch with the world. (S-40t)

★★★★★

FACE IT! #23 ($2.50 from PO Box 719, Corte Madera, CA 94925): Rock news with an emphasis on the Northern California area. Babylon AD and Leather are prominently featured in this issue, along with the usual rundown of local events and shows past and future. Ace Backwords chimes in with smartass music reviews as well. (T-16t)

★★★★★

FADE TO BLACK #1 (50¢ from Frank Lloyd Jr., PO Box 486, Richwood, WV 26261): A nasty little minicomic for the horror and gore crowd. The first issue features necrophagy and child abuse, which should give you some idea of the editor's predilections. Artwork is crude but not unacceptably so. (M-8)

★★★★★

FANGOOZINE #1 ($1 from 40 E. College, Carbondale, IL 62901): The successor to **EXTORTION** zine, this is a mix of music and underground culture. They interview Problem Children about being a band and Bob Z about being an outlaw for postering. They print lots of underground art and cartoons, including Aaron's series "Tips On Mind Loss". There are punk ads, punk layouts, bits of opinion and screeds, and more tucked in the corners. Exuberant. (S-20)

★★★★★

FAN'TOONS #31 ($1.75 *Cash/stamps* from Edd Vick, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105): A minicomic which tends towards funny animals and other furry critters but has some latitude. This is the "Romance" issue, with everything from aliens out to observe human mating habits to some of Donna Barr's lavender flyboys. A good collection, as always. (M-32)

★★★★★

FARMER BOB'S SOMETIMES NEWS & LOCAL REVIEW Vol. 1 #9 ($1 (?) from PO Box 1318, Davis, CA 95616): The students are back in Davis, and **FARMER BOB'S** is there to welcome them. Besides notes on where to get stamps and salsa, it's got an inspirational article on a community playground project, music reviews, baseball, the local cafe, and more. A major article on codependency provides more links into community resources. (T-16t)

★★★★★

FAST CARS...WITH MINDS OF THEIR OWN! (2 stamps from David Elzay, PO Box 11224, Berkeley, CA 94701-2224): A minicomic featuring automobiles dashing in all directions without their owners at the wheel. This is set off by collaged words and phrases from safety manuals and sales literature. A celebration of our love affair with the auto. (M-8)

★★★★★

FATAL VISIONS #5 (A$16/4 issues from Michael Helms, PO Box 133, Northcote, 3070, AUSTRALIA): A film zine from down under, with much of its space devoted to reviewing American films that have recently opened there. Thus it's a bit of a time warp in places. On the other hand the reviews of Hong Kong movies are of things that may never make it to our shores so I guess we're even. There are also fanzine notes and a rundown on the state of the porn theatre in their area. Well-written and knowledgeable with a wide scope. (A4-24r)

★★★★★

FAT TUESDAY Vol. 1 #1 ($5 from F.M. Cotolo, 8125 Jonestown Rd., Harrisburg, PA 17112-9713): This one came out a few years ago, but there are copies left and with the magazine still hanging on it's on the way to becoming a classic. Cotolo and company put out a gritty litmag, with a big-city flavor crunching under your heals. The people in these poems and stories are just a little over the edge, not coping with modern life, whether it's by exhibitionism or shooting at people in bars. A fast breathless read, for the most part. (D-36t)

★★★★★

THE FEAT SHEET Vol. 2 #4 ($10/yr from Derrick Fogle, 818 W. 85th St., Kansas City, MO 64114): A newsletter for footbag enthusiasts. The $10 includes lifetime membership in the club and a free t-shirt or footbag as well as the printed stuff. Folks here write about innovative moves (it's amazing the technical lingo this sport has developed!), places to go, and memorable footbag experiences. Fun but specialized. (S-8t)

★★★★★

FELICITY #1 ($2 from Tom Verre, PO Box 8354, Lowell, MA 01853): Funny animal comics from a variety of people, including Verre, co-editor Tom Linehan, Kjartan Arnorsson, and Bill Fitts. No hardcore stuff here, just cute furry people going about their everyday cute furry business. (D-24)

★★★★★

FELL SWOOP #18 ($6/yr from 1521 N. Lopez St., New Orleans, LA 70119): This is the "Professional Dog Grooming Issue" of this somewhat off-the-wall litmag. It's mainly poetry, though Greg Boyd does deliver a fun little story about a relationship on and off the rocks. Most of the poets don't seem to take themselves or the world too seriously, poking holes int he facades that surround us. (S-18)

★★★★★

FEMINIST VOICES Vol. 2 #2 ($12/10 issues from PO Box 853, Madison, WI 53701-0853): A monthly women's tabloid which gives space for a wide variety of concerns. The cover this time has stuff on pro-choice activism, racism and oppression, and women's history. The lives of incest survivors are also touched on inside. The level of analysis seems generally high, and there's a sense of community spirit. (T-12t)

★★★★★

FENRIR #7 (IRCs from Thormynd Press, PO Box 4, Church Stretton, Shropshire, ENGLAND): This one is for devotees of the left hand path to magical enlightenment. The issue at hand contains scripts for two rituals: an initiation and a Satanic Mass. There's also an article on the problems which Crowleyites cause for those following more sophisticated paths and the beginning of a major arcana for a Satanist Tarot. (A4-18)

★★★★★

FIELD TRIP #2 (50¢ from Paul Rydeen, PO Box 207, Ft. Lyon, CO 81038): A collection of ramblings and reviews from Paul. He talks of entropy in one breath, freaks in another and new music in the next. There's also poetry, reviews of wild marginal books, zines and sources, and some notes on the local asylum for the mentally ill. (S-16)

★★★★★

FILE 13 #5 ($1 from Mark Lo, PO Box 175, Concord, MA 01742): Mark's switched jobs, so this isn't as pretty as it used to be, but there's still darned good music writing here. Highlight of the issue for me is the interview with Carl Howard, opinionated cassette maven. There's also chats with Chrysanthemums and Killdozer and plenty of music reviews, plus a page or so of other zines. (S-24r)

★★★★★

FILM

THEY WON'T STAY DEAD #6 ($1 from Brian Johnson, 11 Werner Rd., Greenville, PA 16125): "Unusual Video" news and reviews. In addition to new turkeys they cover old classics—The Pit and the Pendulum gets a full page in this issue. A page of sleazy quotes from sources as diverse as the Comics Code Authority and Colin Wilson close the issue off. Plenty of short reviews happen before that. (D-12r)

★★★★★

FILMCLIPS #4 ($2 from PO Box 1335, New York, NY 10013): After a slow start this one is picking up. Billing itself as "The Movie Memorabilia Classifieds", its subscription is now over 1000 and the ads are coming in. People are looking for Flintstones toys, ready to sell Disney posters, , and searching for Sylvester Stallone material. There's also a few reviews and opinion pieces in between the ads. (S-16t)

★★★★★

FILM EXPERIENCE #3 ($2 from Randy Johnston, 3114 NW 41, Oklahoma City, OK 73112): A film zine that concentrates more on the experience of watching movies than the movies themselves. Reminiscence, a look at a crusading censor in OKC, and even a rampage provoked by one too many movies (fictional) are in this issue. There's also some satirical movie ads and a horror zine reprint, plus a section of reviews. This is the last FE, but Randy promises to return with another zine soon. (S-48)

★★★★★

FILTH #3 ($1 & 2 stamps from Sanford, Box 2444, 715 Stadium Dr., San Antonio, TX 78284): Despite the name, this is a well-executed music zine that deals with social issues as well. Interviews here include Fredrick Lonberg-Holm, Rats of Unusual Size, and Sociedad Violenta (a band from Medellin, Columbia). On the issues side, there's vegetarianism and other alternative lifestyles. Good use of graphics as well, including a hand-drawn inside back cover unique in each copy. (S-34)

★★★★★

THE FINAL FRONTIER #54 ($2 or so from Colin Hinz, 349 West St. N, Orillia, ONT, L3V 5E1, CANADA): A rather small and struggling apa from the SF community. Actually it would be much smaller were it not for Derek McCulloch catching up on comments from a substantial number of past disties this time around. Mostly the usual fannish general interest chitchat, with few highs or lows. Could use some more members. (S-47)

★★★★★

FINE ART COMICS #4-6 ($1 from Andrew Roller, PO Box 221295, Sacramento, CA 95822): A collection of reviews of other comics and artwork by Roller. The latter features "Chester", a young artist unduly suppressed by his second grade teachers. Much mellower than a lot of the stuff Roller has published in the past. #6 features an interview with Jim Main, current Chair of the UFO. (S-10)

★★★★★

F.I.O.T. #10 (SASE from Daniel Ust. 321 Maple St. #49, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861): The title is an acronym for "Freedom In Our Time", indicating the libertarian slant of the ideas within. This issue urges opening up bus lines to private competition and looks at possible horrible scenarios from a drug war gone crazy. (D-8)

★★★★★

THE FIRST STONE #1 (Free, but a couple of stamps wouldn't hurt, from Chris Caggiano, 1737 Grove St. #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385): The latest addition to the Last Minute Productions stable of zines, this is a collection of poetry and very short stories, left over from other venues. The layout is chockablock with things crammed in the corners, often upside down, so it takes some puzzling to tease things out. When you do, you'll find most of them to be in the "punkture" mode of writing. (D-24r)

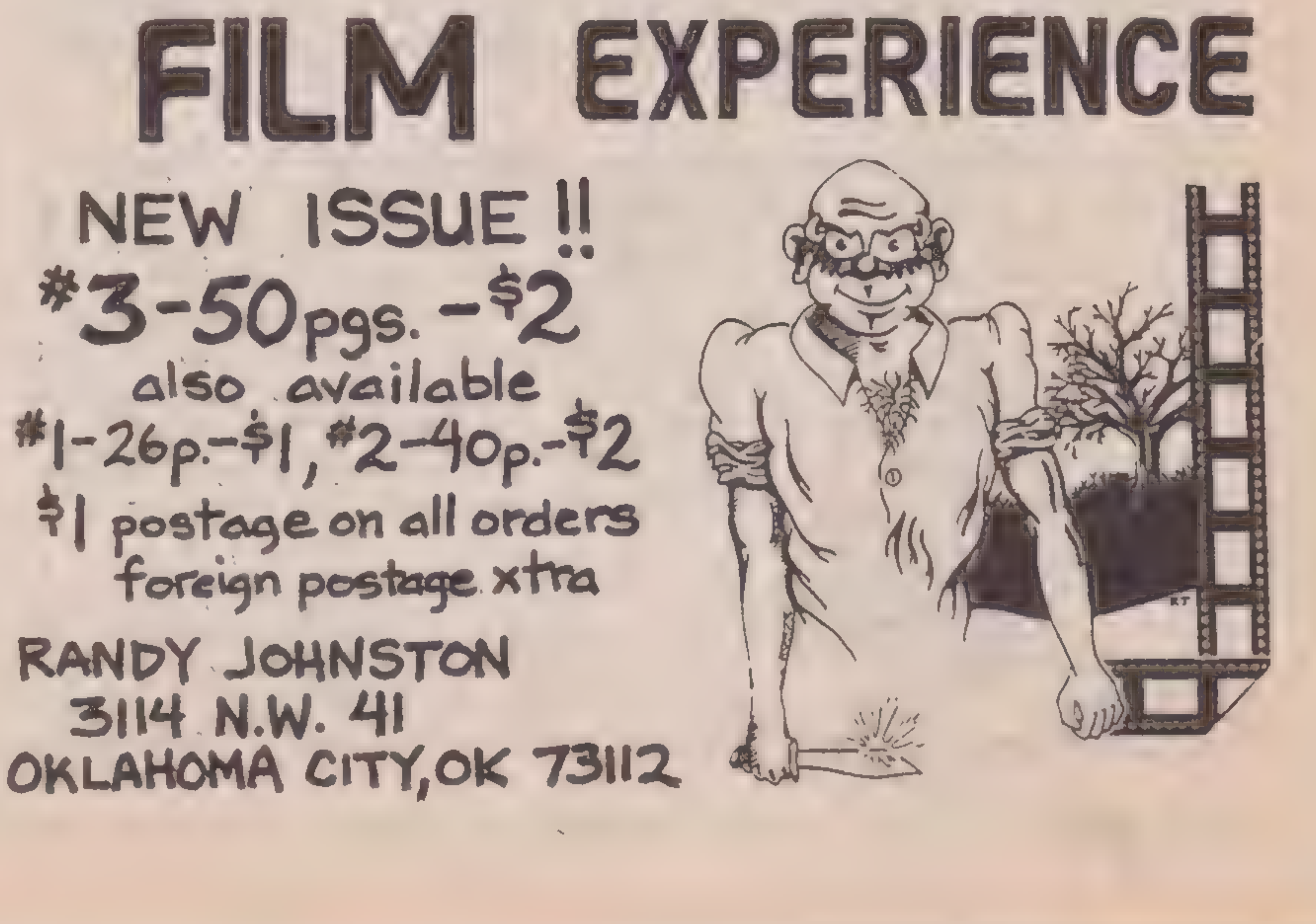
★★★★★

FISH DRUM #5 ($10/4 issues from 626 Kathryn Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501): A delightful little literary zine with Zen overtones. Martin Edmunds presents the amusing playlet "Francis and the Friar" (wherein St. Francis confronts some lax brothers) and Sharon Niederman writes of life at the retreat in "I Was A Spiritual Scullery Maid". Fine poetry from Joy Harjo, Miriam Sagan and Linda Monacelli Johnson also stands out. (D-45t)

★★★★★

FISHES #2-3 ($3.50 from 6601 Kirby #560, Houston, TX 77005): This one advertises "art * politics * media * fiction * non fiction * and criticism thereof" on the masthead, but it hasn't landed submissions in most of those categories yet. What it does have is an attractive comb-bound format and a reasonable helping of interesting but not very experimental fiction. Herman Kluge's "A Job For Life" in #2 provoked some chuckles; Danielle Lyre's "The Ruby Necklace" in #3 is poised curiously on the edge between love and terror. (S-34t)

★★★★★



FISSION CHICKEN #2 ($2.50 from Fantagraphics, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115): Fission Chicken is a superhero for the 90s: funny, snide, and an animal to boot. In this issue he takes on Ferdie Cruller, the antihero of Nightmare on Elmer Street, in a welter of special effects. The backup feature, Duck "Bill" Platypus is, well, strange. (S-24)

★★★★★

FIVE-O ZINE #5 ($2 from 100 Stoney Gate, Carlisle, MA 01741): Also available for photos or perhaps even a really great letter. This one is for skateboarders, without any extraneous stuff like music coverage. The basic format is simply photos with commentary—who, when, where sort of stuff. I'm still pretty amazed at what some of these guys can do on a bit of board with wheels on it. Good show. (HL-28)

★★★★★

FLAMING SIN! #1 ($1.50/6 issues from PO Box 726, Syracuse, NY 13210): The editor here, Plutonium McNuggets, uses a false name advisedly, being the author of a review of "The Last Temptation of Christ" that caused a good deal of fuss at Syracuse University. The first issue publishes that review and some subsequent fallout, as well as various nasty graphics and stories about Christians and a bit of short fiction. (S-6)

★★★★★

FLASH VICTORY REPORT #1 (Donation from PO Box 88, London, AR 72847): A wild ranting and raving zine from somewhere on the loony right fringe of things. It's concerned mostly with heroic battles to protect the flag, which they seem to think the blacks want to destroy (there's a strong thread of racism throughout this), and with the election of David Duke and the streamroller that it presages. The whole is very hard to read, being one of the worst examples of desktop publishing run amok I've ever seen. (S-8t)

★★★★★

FLIPSIDE #62 ($2 from PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): One of the biggest and the best fanzines from the punk community—and it's still improving. They're not entirely hardcore—this time they interviewed the Pixies—but with groups like Fugazi, Subpop, Government Issue and Life Sentence in this issue you can see where they're coming from. There's also a feature on Taang Records, and of course zillions of letters, classified ads, record and live show reviews. An indispensable part of the punk community. (S-88t)

★★★★★

FLOTSAM AND JETSON #1 (25¢ & a stamp from Nat Rabb, 612 Wyndhurst Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210): The lead character, Flotsam, is sort of a swamp thing with a badge and a gun, a hard-boiled trash heap. He's trying to hunt down George Jetson. In the introductory issue, Flotsam crashes a bar full of comic characters and later gets shot dead(?). (M-8)

★★★★★

F.O.C. REVIEW Vol. 2 #4 ($$5 from PO Box 101, Worth, IL 60482): A litmag with a rather traditional feel, not given to far-out experimentalism. This issue has an interesting little story from Michael Ogorzaly and a somewhat tortured tale of love renewed by Patrick Murphy. There's also a special section with the winners of the first James R. Friend Memorial Awards. (S-60t)

★★★★★

FOCUS ON INFINITY #1 ($2 from PO Box 18698, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706): This is a short newsletter from Abiolysig, a MENSA Special Interest Group concerned with life extension and cryonics. This first issue has a handy list of organizations in the field, plus some zine reviews and notes on future SIG plans. (HL-8)

★★★★★

FOREFRONT #9 ($1.50 from 307 Crestview Rd., Columbus, OH 43202): A nice pile of musical reviewing. This issue is dedicated to Hank Williams, Jr., since some of the staff ended up at one of his concerts by mistake. There's a killer review of that concert, or at least of its crowd, in here. Also included are interviews with the Walkabouts, Live Skull, Soundgarden and Mr. T Experience, more live shows (Laughing Hyenas for one) and a batch of chatty record reviews. Seems friendlier than most music critiques. (S-44)

★★★★★

FOSFAX #143-144 ($2 from PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281): A SF zine which is largely run as a place for people to exchange their views in an open forum of letters. I note a number of FF recipients among those writing, along with many well-known fans and even a few pros. They also run book reviews, fan news, and opinion articles. #144 includes some Worldcon reportage and a comparison of L. Ron Hubbard and Lyndon LaRouche. (S-44)

★★★★★

FOUR ALARM CHARM #6-7 ($1 (?) from Ernest Drudge, PO Box 10578, Minneapolis, MN 55458): A relatively unpretentious music zine, concentrating on reviews of the current underground crop. #6 has Tad and a bunhc of Homestead releases. #7 has Panther Burns, Boris Grebenshikov, and The Bridge, among others. Ernest also sneaks in a bit of literary criticism. (S-10)

★★★★★

FOUR SIGMA BULLETIN #1-2 ($10/4 issues from Polymath Systems, PO Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701): A journal for members of the Four-Sigma, Prometheus, Noetic and Mega Societies—all for folks from the 99.997th percentile of intelligence on up. Articles in these two issues discuss topics as diverse as programming a "fiction machine" and the appeal of different sorts of games. #2 includes a roster of known members of the four societies and a few puzzles. (D-32t)

★★★★★

FRACTAL REPORT #3 ($23/6 issues from J. de Rivaz c/o Reeves Telecommunications Laboratories Ltd., West Towan House, Porthtowan, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8AX, UK): This is for folks interested in Mandelbrot sets, Julia Sets, and other strange denizens of the complex plane. Various authors discuss new fractal and chaotic images and provide computer programs for their generation (mostly written for Sinclair and other machines not available here, but obvious enough to easily convert). There's also some mathematical theory in places, and of course printouts of results. (A4-20)

★★★★★

FREAK CITY BLUES SNOOZERS #9 (10¢ & a stamp from Wall-ter, PO Box 501, Lebanon, KY 40033): A minicomic which seems to wallow in its

FRENCH PUBLICATIONS

Geof Huth offered to review a pile of things that I couldn't read without time and a dictionary, and I took him up on it. Here, intermixed, are the zines and pamphlets he took a look at:

★★★★★

L'ANOMIE 0, MANUEL DE SAVOIR-VIVRE SANS USAGE (From Janluk, 3 chemin de moulin, 92230 Issu les moulineaux, FRANCE): An enjoyable little praecisio that comes complete with all the trappings of a printed booklet—besides the actual text. Title, colophon, table of contents, epigraphs and a whole sheet of blurbs, but in the middle is nothing but blank -pages that are apparently musings on the subjects "What I know", "My Program", "Social and Philosophical Solutions", etc. All in French, but enough pages inside for a brief diary of your own—or write the essays youself and defeat the meaning of its textlessness. (A5-40t)

★★★★★

EPISODE #2 (Fr.40 from Association d'invidividus, BP 352, 75625 Paris 13, FRANCE): A practically professional magazine with an abundance of modes of political expression: essays, photographs, cartoons, a poem, and even a political reglossary of words like "Christian", "indigent", and "torture". Even the famous Asterix comic book is reworked as "Osterix" after combining three of the stories, cutting out the words, and adding new politicized language. EPISODE comes with an entire other magazine as a supplement, the French version of **THE PUNCHLINE** #1: full of striking, xeragic, posterized thoughts. Both are vehemently anti-colonialist and eco-logical, with only a smattering of English words. (S-112t)

★★★★★

L'ETANG MODERNE #89 (From Hilare Moderne, troupe folklorique, c/o Eric Heilmann, 4 rue du 8 mai 45, 02260 La Capelle, FRANCE): A collagist layout holds this magazine together: little squares of text tied together with glue and with dozens of circles and lines that force connections among the boldfaced words of the texts. Most of the squares are reviews of fanzines (only a few American examples, including **FACTSHEET FIVE**), but some are quotations from Mallarme, Proust, Nietzsche, Sade, and others. An interesting attempt for those who read French. (M-36r)

★★★★★

NU tract publicitaire d'avant publication (Free (?) from Xavier Bouygues, 16 Rue de la Pinsionniere, 77680 Roissy en Brie, FRANCE): An announcement for the impending publication of NU, a magazine, offset, A3 format, to be published in 19 issues. The pamphlet announces Xavier's intentions for the magazine, especially his artistic motives, all of which is interesting enough int he abstract, but bring on NU. (A4-5t)

★★★★★

Fredy Perlman, **ANTISEMITISME ET POGROME DE BEYROUTH** (From Interrogations, c/o I.S., BP 243, 75564 Paris Cedex 12, FRANCE): Besides the title piece, "Antisemitism and the Pogrom of Beirut", the booklet contiains an essay on the process of colonization and one on "the protest movements against the war and repression inside the territory of Israel". Strongly gelt and radical thoughts from an Israeli who is reported to be currently detained in a military prison after having been charged with having painted "slogans against military service within the occupied territories". All in French except for a single-sheet insert in English entitled "Tien Anmen is Not so Far Away", comparing the recent and violent oppression in China to the more subtle repressions of other governments. (A5-48)

★★★★★

TYR #13 (From Thierry Tillier, BP 4254, 6000 Charleroi 4, BELGIUM): The cover of this consists mostly of an English translation of the "Manifesto of Reseau 666", the motives of an international artist's group founded in 1986 by the editor, and which is "like God's decaying stumps, a rebelious and flamboyant mix, a busted up and joyous revolt, morbid, and serene." In the Francophone pages that follow, the dark and disturbing visuals are more important to the feel of this than is the language, but there are some interesting mixtures of word and images in some of the xerages. (A4-26t) own confusion. Though the art is primitive, you can read it as a parody of superhero comics, with a new hero or villain being introduced in almost every panel, and a lot of mindless mayhem. (M-8)

★★★★★

THE FREEDOM WRITER Vol. VI #4 (Contribution from Simon, Porteous & Associates, PO Box 589, Great Barrington, MA 01230): This newsletter is one of the better sources for information on the religious right's antics. #4 looks at the growth of the Christian evangelical movement and the cavalier attitude of Operation Rescue towards the law. They also have an active letter column in which other matters touching on the separation of church and state are discussed. (S-4t)

★★★★★

FREE INQUIRY Vol. 9 #4 ($5 from PO Box 5, Buffalo, NY 14215-0005): These people are secular humanists and proud of it. Their journal is heavy reading, full of highly thoughtful articles examining the humanist view of the world and its implications. The major chunk of #4 is filled with a special section, "Libertarianism or Socialism: Where Do Secular Humanists Stand?", with contributions from Anthony Flew, Tibor Machan, Murray Rothbard, and other notables. There are also several pieces on the Rushdie affair and an article on cosmology and what it has to say about creation vs. origin, not at all the same thing. High quality throughout. (S-68t)

★★★★★

THE FREEMAN Oct.-Nov. 1989 (On Request from Foundation for Economic Education, 30 S. Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): Essays in the defense of the free market form a variety of libertarian thinkers. They show over and over again how the state screws things up and the market could set it straight given half a chance. A useful source of information if you need ammunition for arguing with a statist. (S-32t)

★★★★★

FREE PRESS NETWORK Vol. 8 #4 ($20/yr from FPA, PO Box 15548, Columbus, OH 43215): The newsletter of the Free Press Association, a group of journalists who hand out the annual Mencken Awards for the best freedom-oriented journalism every year. They also find time for a well-attended conference and print the news on various attempts to limit free speech. Flag burning is still high in their minds this issue, along with the Mencken finalists. (S-8t)

★★★★★

FRIENDS OF FREEDOM 9/22/89 ($1 (?) from PO Box 1133, Sooke, BC, V0S 1N0, CANADA): A newsletter for the historical revisionist community, primarily concentrating on the current legal situation in Canada where it has become a crime to publish certain opinions. The bulk of this issue recounts the latest round of appeals in the Zundel trial, but there are four or five other cases mentioned as well as the beating of Dr. Faurisson in France. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE FRONT PAGE Vol. 10 #17 ($12/22 issues from PO Box 27926, Raleigh, NC 27611): A community paper for gay and lesbian people in the Carolinas that's been around for almost ten years now. They feature articles on AIDS activism, coming out, cultural events, and local politics, as well as an extensive classified and calendar section. (T-16t)

★★★★★

FRUIT OF THE TOMB #1 (On request from Roy Tompkins, PO Box 16022, Austin, TX 78761): A single-page catalog of gory comic releases from Roy. On the back are short reviews of other high quality underground comic books. A rather selective resource. (S-2)

★★★★★

FUCK THE TORIES #7 (The Usual from 5A Frinton Road, Stamford Hill, London, N1 6NH, UK): Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas continue to put out an interesting medley of SF fannish and political writing, fuelled by living in Thatcher's England. The opening editorial this time is by Joseph, and ends up musing on the heritage industry and the insanity of trying to take a whole society back, either to the land or to the past. There's also stuff on punk music, an ornithopter article from Leigh Edmonds (who else?) and some amusing letters. (A4-26)

★★★★★

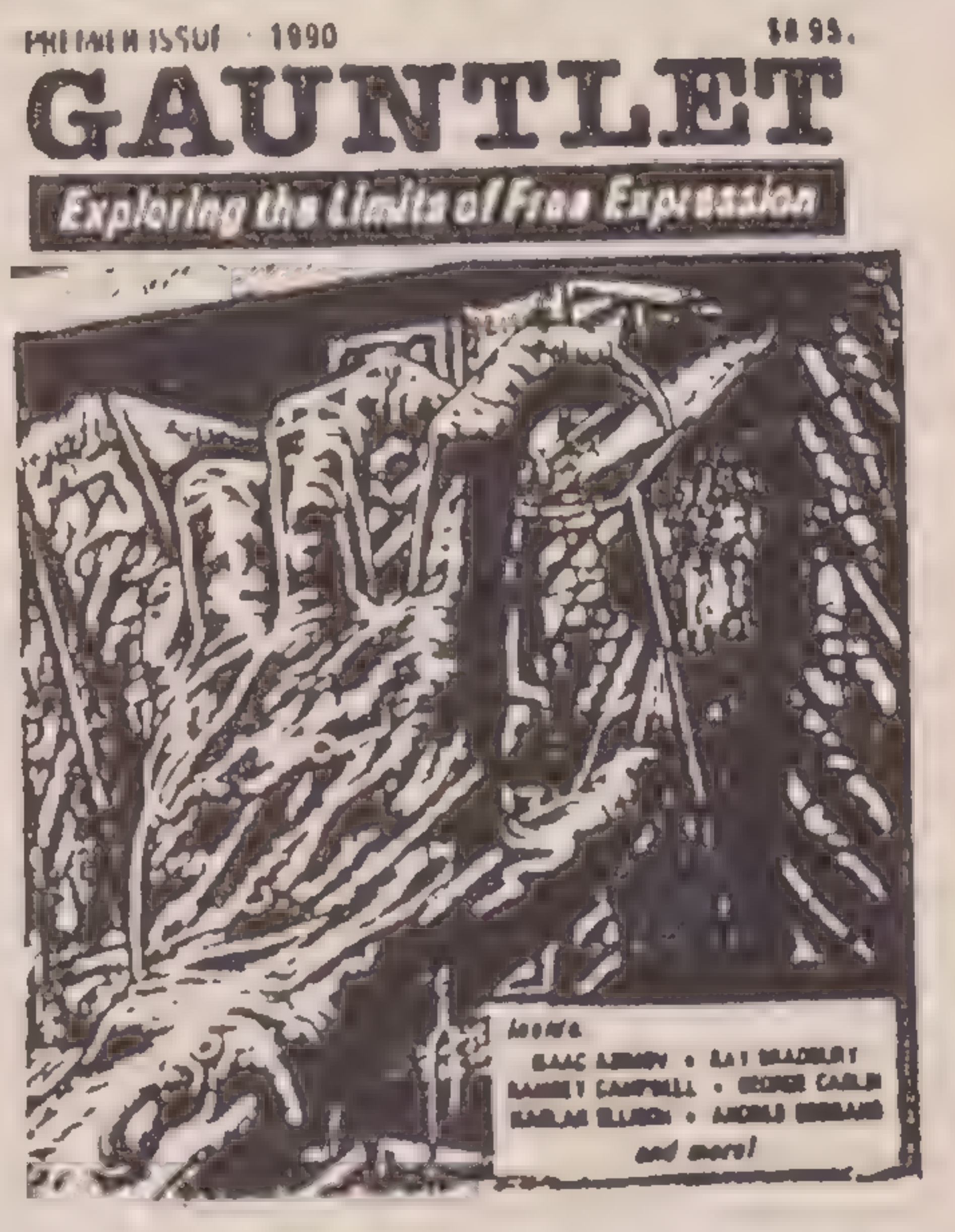
FULL CUP #1 ($1 from Neil Schmidt, RD9 Box 95, Bridgeton, NJ 08302): A collection of comics centered around one of the most abused of all drugs: caffiene (well, a bit of dope does find its way into one strip, and breaded chicken coating into another). The artwork is realistic to hallucinatory, as the characters get involved in rather bizarre incidents. (D-16)

★★★★★

FULL DISCLOSURE #19 ($2 from PO Box 8275-FF, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): A tabloid which continually examines the "authorities" in this country and their interactions with the law. This issue reports on the FBI's sloth in responding to FOIA requests, the possibility of getting out of tax assessments through bankruptcy, and various illegal and unconstitutional activities of the Ann Arbor and University of Michigan cops. There's also stuff on bugging devices, the drug war, and more. (T-16t)

★★★★★

CENSORSHIP



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FUNHOUSE MIRROR #1 ($3/yr from 853 Vanderbilt Beach Rd. #203, Naples, FL 33963): A new underground high school paper that reminds me somewhat of the one I used to work on—notably in their article on how to steal books from their library. They also kindly supply blank hall passes, as well as plenty of humor and digs at the official school paper. (S-16)

★★★★★

A GALLERY O'FIX ($1 from Scott L. Stevens, 8220 Research #114B, Austin, TX 78758): A collection of renditions of Scott's Mr. Fix character, each by a different artists. This includes Roy Tompkins, Jeff Gaither, Edd Vick and other comics greats. The smiling Fix seems to get more maniacal every page. (M-12)

★★★★★

GALVIN REPORT #1 (50¢ [no stamps] from Chris Smyth, 112 Mansfield Dr., Camillus, NY 13031): A small newsletter that seems to be a bit unfocused at this point. The editor's interests apparently include comics, strange news, RPGs, and movies. He's looking for contributions on any or all of these subjects. (S-12)

★★★★★

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS Vol. 17 #10-18 ($20/25 weeks from 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116): A topnotch weekly newspaper for the lesbian and gay community. They cover everything from politics to culture, in detail and with professional aplomb. #12 is their September book review issue, with a selection of lesbian musteries and more. #14 has news of ACT UP demonstrations on the West Coast, which don't make the mainstream media here. #17 has a few lighter pages with its coverage of gay comic characters, including interviews with Matt Groening and Alison Bechdel. One story in #18 reports on the victory in the fight to allow same-sex dancing at Disneyland. (T-20t)

★★★★★

GEEKSTERS AND GODHEADS (75¢ from Scott L. Stevens, 8220 Research #114B, Austin, TX 78758): Drawings of strange people in surreal comics poses. Take the guy on the back, for example: he's flying through the air with clothes flapping loosely about his skinny frame, surrounded by hundreds of floating eyes. Below, the ants march out of the barn's tongue, while flames dance on the horizon. (M-8)

★★★★★

GEMSTONE REPORT Vol. 1 #1 ("Free, but please send Gemstone Files" from X. S. DeSpot, 2225 Montego Dr., Lansing, MI 48910): DeSpot is investigating the Gemstone Files, a samisdat document which claims to trace a pattern of conspiracy through modern history, by looking for confirmation in other sources. The issue at hand focuses on Howard Hughes' involvement with Richard Nixon. (S-15)

★★★★★

GENDER EXPRESSIONS Vol. 1 #5 ($30/yr from Bisley Enterprises, 6A Glenville Ave., Allston, MA 02134): A publication for the "Gender Dysphoric" community: transvestites, transsexuals, and other transgendered people. They delve a bit into history, and then get into the meat of the issue, Jan Redbear's article on "The Politics of Diagnosis", which shows some of the lack of sympathy with which the medical establishment treats these people. They also cover current news, interesting musical releases, and give a resource guide of organizations to contact. (S-36t)

★★★★★

GENII Vol. 52 #10-12 ($2.50 from PO Box 36068, Los Angeles, CA 90036): "The International Conjurors' Magazine" is aimed at professional magicians, but is fun reading for any kid who ever dreamed of entering that profession. It's full of great articles with tips and tricks for the professional, plans for illusions, and looks at the personalities in the field. The ads alone are worth the price of admission for the layman. #11 has a special tribute section to Dai Vernon, with explanations of some of his card tricks. (S-72t)

★★★★★

GLITCH Vol. 5 #9-10 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765): Austin is one of the hot spots for new music and reading **GLITCH** is one good way to keep up with what's happening there. They're real good on keeping up with local gossip and studio news. #9 also gives a report on Woodshock '89 and has articles on Evan Johns and Joe Doerr. Comic and record reviews fill out the issue. #10 is the last **GLITCH**, but they'll be part of the new **TEXAS BEAT**. (S-16t)

★★★★★

GNOSIS #13 ($5 from PO Box 14217, San Francisco, CA 94114-0217): Another fine issue of this magazine of the Western inner traditions. This time the theme is Goddes(es), with articles covering the gamut from a look at contemporary paganism to a suggestion that the archaeological evidence for primal goddess-worship is unconvincing. Along the way we meet up with Sophia, , the Virgin Mary, the Black Virgin, the Muse and ultimately a trenscendant divine being who is neither goddess nor god. (S-88t)

★★★★★

GOD IS AN ASSHOLE #4 (Stamps from S.M. Steppenwolf, 1901 7th St., Long Beach, CA 90813): Don't use the zine name on your envelope, as the Postal Service frowns on that sort of thing. This is a collection of all manner of punk and socially responsible reprints and essays. Subjects in #4 include anarchy and violence, the local music scene, recycling (a big topic here), and the latest Spike Lee movie. #5 has a batch of stuff on lesbian & gay rights. There's also letters and a few reviews. (D-22r)

★★★★★

GODSEND #12-13 ($1 from Todd Zachritz, 1401 Fuquay Rd., Evansville, IN 47715): "The rag that spits in the eye of life" seems to be mainly a home for short and nasty literary efforts, plus a bit of new music coverage (Controlled Bleeding in #12, Greater Than One in #13). Bits of poetry, essays and very short stories float through these pages, tearing down the edifice of society brick by brick. (D-20r)

★★★★★

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH ME #1 (25¢ postage from 320 W. Oak #B, Greenville, IL 62246): A medley of philosophy, reprints, dream reports, warnings about communist plans for world domination, and more. It's offered as an alternative to the official media, though it supplies more of a point of view than actual news. Looks like it belongs stapled to a phone pole. (O-2)

★★★★★

GOOD & PLENTY #3 (75¢ from Gabe Rodriguez, 2116 Salem Blvd., Zion, IL 60099): A hardcore music zine that seems to incline to straightedge without being obnoxious about it. They've got interview with Gorilla Biscuits, Bold, and Judge, plus a few others. A centerfold of photos and a few reviews add to the package. (D-40)

★★★★★

GOODIES #64-66 ($1.50 & Age Statement from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A continuing collection of erotic art, heavy on well-built ladies and furious sex action. There's a whole batch of artists who contribute everything from comic strips to pinups, and editor Brad Foster chimes in with reviews of movies and books as well as some of his own drawings. (M-20t)

★★★★★

GOOD VIBES GAZETTE #7 ($2 from Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110): For that price you'll get a copy of their latest catalog, and they'll throw in the newsletter. Good Vibrations is a women-owned and operated business which sells vibrators of all sorts as well as (through the affiliated company Sexuality Library) empowering and useful sex books. High class all the way, with an engaging spirit of openness. The **GAZETTE** has everything from new book titles to editorials to notes on home vibrator repair. (S-6t)

★★★★★

THE GOSPEL TRUTH Vol. 30 #11 ($2.50/5 issues from Southwest Radio Church, PO Box 1144, Oklahoma City, OK 73101): The Southwest Radio Church is one of the more strident conservative evangelical groups around. This is a special issue of their newsletter, titled "ACLU Explosed", all about the horrendous things that the American Civil Liberties Union believes in. (S-5t)

★★★★★

G'RAFFITI Vol. II #9-11 ($5/yr from PO Box 16898, San Diego, CA 92116): The newsletter of the Camelopards, an offshoot of Mensa in the wake of some political unpleasantness in the latter society. They seem to be a fun-loving and active group, with a sense of humor and lots of events. Their newsletter has silliness like the announcement of the Big-B society in #10 (for only one in a billion people), as well as more serious things like software and book reviews. (S-24t)

★★★★★

GRAPHIC FLAK 9/13/89-11/8/89 ($8/6 issues from 1204 Jenifer St. #2, Madison, WI 53703): A biweekly newspaper of comics and other visual flotsam. They have a distinctly underground look and a slant towards youth, with the Student Loan Ranger, other drug stuff, skateboards, and so on. Political commentary tends to take a left, or at least opposition, slant. If you like **SEATTLE STAR**, you should like this, even though there isn't an overlap of artists. Looking for submissions too, and they pay a little for things they use. (T-8)

★★★★★

GREEN ACTION Vol. 6 #1 ($20/10 issues from 1713 E. Broadway #293, Tempe, AZ 85282): A newsletter focusing on "Ecology, Grassroots Democracy, Social Reponsibility and Non-Violence". Much of their news coverage is reprinted from elsewhere. The unique part is the political analysis of activities in the various factions of the Green movement in the US, from the point of view of someone who is not pleased with the major (CoC) organization in the field. This provokes some interesting letters in this issue. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE GREENHELL GAZETTE #9 ($1 from PO Box 6687, Albany, NY 12206-6687): Well, editor Jon Drucker didn't win the local Mayoral election, but he's musing about running for governor next. Inside this collection of ravings are poetry from the likes of Oberc, Kait and Alan Catlin, who also reports on the terrors of working bar on St. Patrick's day. Jef Deth weighs in with a boozy story too, and there's general mayhem in the margins. Not respectable and damned proud of it. (T-12)

★★★★★

GREEN ISLANDS Vol. 1 #1-9 (Donation from PO Box 254, Ganges, BC, V0S 1E0, CANADA): A weekly environmentally conscious broadside which attempts to answer the question "What can *we* do?" Besides news bits, they offer ideas for concrete action in every issue, on using less paper, things to protest, ways to avoid driving, and so on. (L-2t)

★★★★★

GREEN MULTILOGUE Vol. 4 #4 ($6 from 390 Jones Ave., Toronto, ONT, M4J 3G3, CANADA): A discussion forum for Canadian Green party members and interested others. Various people here have been wrestling with the problem of building consensus in a large and farflung group with shifting membership. Other concerns include recycling, the need for political action, Greens in other countries, and organic farming. (S-46)

★★★★★

GREEN NET Vol. 2 #7 ($8/yr from Green Network, 29 E. Wilson #202, Madison, WI 53703): "News From the Upper Great lakes Green Network", this one covers many of the facets of the movement, though appearing to lean just a bit towards the Left Greens and other radicals. There's an interesting story on the drive to keep BGH out of milk, as well as plenty of news about local activism and national organizing. (T-12t)

★★★★★

GRILLED MENIAL ($1 & SASE from Philip R. Bonner, 229 E. 10th St. #8, New York, NY 10003): Phil's personalzine, which started as a lettersub for his friends but may be branching out a bit. Besides writing about his own life (he got lost in the woods on MDMA in an event related in this issue) he reviews new music, books, zines and shows. There's some nifty artwork too. And the desktop look is quite professional, as it should be, since he works in the field. (D-8t)

★★★★★

GRIND Vol. 2 #5-6 (50¢ from Richard Green, PO Box 32, Old Bridge, NJ 08857): Richard puts together a couple pages of movie reviews once a month and ships 'em out. #5 is mostly devoted to serious films (though Kickboxer does make it in), including **Relentless** and **Cage**. In #6 he trashes **Heavy petting** and **Halloween 5**. Solid thoughts and enough analysis to be interesting. (S-2)

★★★★★

GRINDHOUSE #4 ($5/yr *CASH* from J. Adler, PO Box 488, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10101):Film coverage from a couple of folks who appear to be on the edge of sanity, or at least the handwritten format makes it seem so. #4 breaks from this for an interview with Frances Raines, which is actually typed. Other contents include theater reviews and of course run downs on movies worth seeing. (D-20)

★★★★★

GROT #5 ($1 from 151 First Ave. Box A, New York, NY 10003): This is Jim Testa's vehicle for talking about music from all over rather than just Jersey. There's some slant towards noise, bashing, gnarly bands: Steel Pole Bathtub and Gwar get a lot of space in this issue. There's also Nomeansno, Knifedance, and a batch of reviews (including a letter taking Stars and Stripes to task for their lyrics. (HL-36t)

★★★★★

GROWING WITHOUT SCHOOLING #70-71 ($3.50 from 2269 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140): The legacy of John Holt, this is a support newsletter and resource for homeschoolers around the country. Much of it is conducted in the form of letters, allowing people to find out what has worked for others. There are suggestions for activities, notes on how to work with the educational establishment, and a bit of philosophy on the side. #71 has a bunch of short pieces from kids on how they conquered challenges in learning. It's not the most visually attractive periodical around, but it packs a lot of information. (S-28t)

★★★★★

GRUB #72 ($3 from Dragonfly Farm, Lake St. Peter, ONT, K0L 2K0, CANADA): A sort of apa that originates on an anarchist-hippie commune (or something like that) up in Canada. They publish all manner of material from community members and friends: social activism, poetry, short stories, and news of general interest. Right friendly folks, and open to publishing material from others. (S-40)

★★★★★

GRUE #11 ($4.50 from Hell's Kitchen Productions, Inc., PO Box 370, Times Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10108-0370): A perfectbound horror zine that continues to impress. This issue I was taken by Howard Seabrook's "Faces in Concrete", a psychic story with both modern horror and an ancient sort of moral. There's also an excerpt from Wayne Allen Sallee's forthcoming novel **THE HOLY TERROR** and some strangeness from t. winter-damon. Plenty of stories here, most very shuddery, some very gory. (D-96t)

★★★★★

GRUNT #1-2 ($3 & Age Statement from Jay Young, 614 E. Elm #1, Springfield, MO 65806): A new entry into the comics of the bizarre. This is reminiscent of underground stuff of old, low on plots, high on titillation and forbidden fantasies. #2 features a comic account of the career of the Zodiac killer. Plenty of demons, copulation, superheroes, blasphemy and other requirements for underground success. (D-56) **GUD** #9-11 (80¢ from Gubba Gub Comics, 1204 Jenifer St. #2, Madison, WI 53703): Futuristic comics with a dark motif, life in a state controlled by fast food interests so all pervasive as to make Big Brother look like a piker. Into it all is thrust Gud, a pleasant if somewhat amorphous worker, who tries to do his best to stay out of trouble. Fun stuff. (D-8)

★★★★★

GUIDELINES MAGAZINE #5 ($15/yr from Susan Salaki, PO Box 608, Pittsburg, MO 65724): An all-genres listing of markets for writing, plus a central source to obtain guidelines for submitting work. This alone would be valuable, but Susan is also running an interesting letter column dealing with the problems small press writers and editors have, plus features on writing past and present—from a how-to photojournalism piece to one on Emily Dickinson's poetry. Subscribers also get **GUIDELINES NEWSLETTER**, a more frequent update to the magazine. (HL-40t)

★★★★★

GUTS II ($1.25 from John Marshall, PO Box 831321, Richardson, TX 75083-1321): For some reason the contents of this Texan-published comic originate at Syracuse University, right here in New York. They're pretty heavy on gore and senseless random violence, especially the punkoid adventures of the LA Boys. John Marshall contributes some fine nightmare "Guts and Brains" art as an opening salvo. (S-16)

★★★★★

HALF-ASSED COMICS ($2 from D. Hellman/S.M. Taggart, PO Box 901, Old Chelsea Stn., New York, NY 10113): Hilarious modern world comics with a desperately gonzo drawing style. My favorite here is "Aunt Mary's Carcinoma Kitchen", about the well-equipped modern housewife's life amongst the atomic appliances. Definitely some warped views of the world here, with punks and monster movies coming in for satire as well. (S-20)

★★★★★

HARVEST Vol. 9 #8-Vol. 10 #1 ($11/8 issues from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): This pagan journal seems to be concentrating on the culture surrounding the craft rather than the details of the craft itself these days. Lots of book and music reviews, press clippings from mainstream sources, and articles on things like the ecology movement set the tone. There's also a nice article on making your own runestaves in #8 and another on the connections between magic and cooking. (S-32t)

★★★★★

HARVEY THE HILLBILLY BASTARD ($2 from Roy Tompkins, PO Box 16022, Austin, TX 78761): A minicomic subtitled "Tender Loins". Harvey goes into town, makes a pass at a waitress, and later discovers some pornography under his parents' mattress. It's all done in a vaguely disgusting fashion, with plenty of gruesome scenes and nasty cracks to offend lots of people. The ennui of living in the wide open spaces. (M-40)

★★★★★

HEADLINES #17 ($1 from Dave Mitchell, PO Box 5094, Winter Park, FL 32791-5094): An unofficial SubGenius newsletter, rolling in a welter of clippings. Appearance by Bob, Connie, Arnold Palmer and other Church jet setters abound. Some real news sneaks in between, but mostly this is wild raving and bits of cast-off MittelAmerika. (S-8t)

★★★★★

HEADPUMP #12-13 ($1 from PO Box 93, Bronx, NY 10461): This one is mostly a collection of full-page artwork, including photos and drawings. There are some eerie texts tucked in between. Most of the works here are sort of gory or depressing or surreal, printed in high-contrast black and white. This zine used to be free, but not enough people were communicating—letters would still be much appreciated. (S-12)

★★★★★

HEAVEN IS DEEP MR. FIX (75¢ from Scott L. Stevens, 8220 Research #114B, Austin, TX 78758): This is the first time I can recall having seen a comics character abducted by aliens. The extraterrestrials do all the standard stuff, weird probes, surgery, memory repression, Could be a hit in the UFO community. (M-8)

★★★★★

HERMIT CRaB #3 (SASE from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): A magazine of personal writing and occasional silliness from Carl. In this issue he gives a rhyming ABC for the modern age, reviews of various artistic projects, and his thoughts on subjects as diverse as religion and history. (S-7t)

★★★★★

HEY! ($4 from Monster Truck Cartoons, 374 Pimlico Rd. , Greenville, SC 29607): A collection of single-panel cartoons by Mark Blackwell, collected from the Yale student paper and various other sources. They tend to feature ordinary people in bizarre situations. One I liked is captioned "'So you're a VEGETARIAN too!,' shrieked Lana, as she prepared to leap from the speeding car." (D-22)

★★★★★

THE HIGH COST OF THE CROSS #4 ($1 from Nate, PO Box 12005-632, Bakersfield, CA 93309): A music zine with lots of fanzine and record reviews in it, plus a high content of opinion articles. The image of McDonalds and the dopiness of the Supreme Court both come in for criticism this time. Interviews include Capitol Punishment and Orifice. Nice stark graphic look makes the most of limited resources. (S-24)

★★★★★

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS Vol. 21 #19 ($24/24 issues from PO Box 1090, Paonia, CO 81428): A newspaper "for People who Care about the West", mostly aimed at the Rocky Mountain States. The bulk of their news is environmental, although they do (in contrast to some other folks) find occasional good things to say about government agencies. Mostly this is tales of volunteers helping out, the fight to keep pollution down, and the beauties of the West. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE HIGHLY UNLIKELY ADVENTURES OF MOE AND DETRITUS #6 (50¢ from David Lee Ingersoll, PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402): More crazy adventures from these minicomic denizens of the street. In this issue, they get seriously bent on a new drug, PKD-666, and meet up with the Devil himself. Wild street art and a perverse sense of plot make David's stuff a constant delight. (M-8)

★★★★★

HIGH SCHOOL IS A WASTELAND #12 ($1 from Gl;en Hirabayashi, 9325 Garrison Way, Eden Prairie, MN 55347): This is the final issue of this hardcore zine, but Glen says he'll be back with a new title soon. He went out in a welter of interviews, including Moral Crux, Porcelain Boys, and Confusion. There's also some opinion pieces and anarchy basics. (S-28)

★★★★★

HIJINX #8 ($1 (?) from PO Box 1071, Bloomington, IN 47402): Apparently this music zine is meant to be a local giveaway, since I can't find a price on it anywhere. The coverage is directed towards those in the scene, with (for example) a couple pages of photos of musicians around town. They talk to The Girls and White Lion and spend a few pages on an outer space comic. (S-24t)

★★★★★

HIMALAYAN INSTITUTE QUARTERLY Fall 1989 (On Request from RR1 Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): The magazine of the Himalayan Institute, an outpost of yogic practice in the US founded by Swami Rama. Every issue has some advice from the swami, as well as a schedule of forthcoming events, books for sale, and notes on the benefits of Institute membership. They conduct an interesting mix of courses, integrating western medicine with eastern knowledge. (S-48t)

★★★★★

THE HIPOCRITE #2 ($1 from Clay, 2331 Poincianna, Huntsville, AL 35801): A zine of short stories, poems, and rants from a whole bunch of folks—sounds like they're still in high school, but I don't mean that negatively; it just indicates the areas they're interested in. Plenty of opposition to the system here, as well as some outrage, toilet humor, graphics, and deep thoughts. I like it. (D-40)

★★★★★

HIPPIE MONKS IN HERMITAGE #1 (50¢ from 2005 Palo Verde Ave. #230, Long Beach, CA 90815): A somewhat unfocused collection of short works, poetry and prose, laid out in a generously graphic setting. There is some history of the peace sign, quotes from the Church fathers, a surreal short short, and more. It all closes with a page of zine contact addresses and a sticker. (S-10)

★★★★★

HIPPO #3 ($2.50 from Chautauqua Press, 28834 Boniface Dr., Malibu, CA 90265): A litmag that seems to run to experiments, but not flagrantly so; it's just that the stories here seem a bit less staid than in many other places. Casey Maddren does a good job of describing a drug-addled party host's attempt to cope, while Greg Boyd gives us a slice of an unfulfilled life. Illustrated with enigmatic photos and collages. (D-48)

★★★★★

HIT BROADSIDE (50¢ from Geof Huth, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): A single cardstock sheet with a collage by Guy R. Beining. It features a number of different bits of perspective as well as a pair of pants, and is much less cluttered than most things of the sort. Suitable for hanging or making paper airplanes of. (S-1)

★★★★★

HITS #162 ($250/yr from 15477 Ventura Blvd. #300, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403): This music magazine is evidently directed at industry types, with its major concern (apart from pages of somewhat nasty gossip) being which records are going to be the next hits. It's a measure of my distance from this world that out of their top fifty singles I have heard precisely zero—indies take up all my listening time now. (S-66t)

★★★★★

HOBO STEW REVIEW #21 ($2 from 2 Eliot St. #1, Somerville, MA 02143): Literary wanderings from Hobo, ranging from fishing jaunts to the lake to a tomato patch despoiled by thieves. The style here tends to be gentle and relaxed. Guest submissions, reviews, poetry, and art are also accepted and gleefully printed. (S-9)

★★★★★

THE HOLLYWOOD KIDS Vol. 4 #18 ($25/10 issues from PO Box 691486, Los Angeles, CA 90069): A small nesletter of gossip, innuendo, and rumor from the Hollywood scene. They tell you who's been spotted where, pass on juicy factoids about celebreties, and even devote a page to interviewing B-52 Fred Schneider. Bubble-headed but sort of fun. (S-10t)

★★★★★

HOLY TITCLAMPS #2 (Free from Boxholder, PO Box 3054, Minneapolis, MN 55403): Don't use the zine title on the envelope or the stuffy Post Office won't deliver your letter. This is a gay personalzine, wherein Larry-Bob talks about traveling around the country, gay zines, hot literature, and Federal arts funding. Pleasant and unpretentious. (D-12t)

★★★★★

THE HOME CATACOMB July/Aug./Sept. 1989 ($3 from Spindrift, Inc., 2018 Shattuck Ave. #132, Berkeley, CA 94704): Spindrift is a nonprofit group exploring the power of prayer in the world with scientific tests, and this is their journal. They report that they have shown effects on both living (soybean) and non-living (cards) things, and that CSICOP and other skeptics have been ducking the chance to investigate. Various theory and religious articles appear as well. They seem exceptionally sincere and level-headed. (S-33t)

★★★★★

HOME POWER #13 (On Request from PO Box 130, Hornbrook, CA 96044-0130): A well-done magazine of alternative energy systems, including photovoltaic, other solar, hydro and wind power. They review products, discuss entire installations, and print lots of "how-to" articles. Exciting things are going on in this industry, and this is one good place to learn about them. (S-56t)

★★★★★

HOSSTOPIA ($2 from C.C. Cilla, PO Box 41302, Tucson, AZ 85717-1302): A collection of stories and comics from diverse contributors, all dedicated to the memory of Hoss (you know, the big guy from Bonanza). Most of this reveals previously-undreamt sides of the character, and I suspect Pa wouldn't have been too happy with some of these antics. (D-32)

★★★★★

HOT STOPS #13 ($2 from PO Box 1333, Lombard, IL 60148): This is a music zine with lots of input from the readers—subscribers are even encouraged to send in reviews. There's plenty of room for classifieds too. Most of the emphasis is on well-known groups; this is sort of an all-purpose fan club. (S-10r)

★★★★★

A HOUSE UNITED AGAINST ITSELF Special War Issue (50¢ (?) from Rev. Etc., PO Box 02024, Columbus, OH 43202): A small issue, devoted entirely to one story by Mildred Shapiro. Her "How I Went to the Boxer Rebellion" is told in the form of a father's reminiscence, painting a picture of what it was like to be young and Jewish and in the Czar's armies. (HS-8t)

★★★★★

HOUSEWIFE-WRITER'S FORUM Vol. 2 #5 ($4 from Deborah Haeseler, PO Drawer 1518, Lafayette, CA 94549): A magazine supporting those of us (including househusbands!) who write at home, aimed mainly at those trying to write for small presses and women's magazines. There's how-to stories, bits of humor, hosuehold hints, market and contest news, and so on. Much of this is mutual support and ideas on how to juggle career and home. There's a clear need for this, judging by how involved the readers seem to be. (D-40t)

★★★★★

THE HUDSON VALLEY GREEN TIMES Harvest 1989 ($15/yr from Hudson Valley GREEN, PO Box 208, Red Hook, NY 12571): This is the local bunch of folks keeping tabs on the environment and what's being done to and about it. The major topic of the day is still garbage: incineration, dumps and recycling all get mentioned in this issue. But there's also stuff on Community-Supported Agriculture, nuclear plant hearings, and sustainability. A mix of information and activism. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE HUMAN CONDITION Vol. 1 #3 ($1 (?) from Student Activities Center, Iowa Memorial Union, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242): A generally liberal paper which, however, welcomes diversity and debate. Their account of being dumped on by both sides for presenting views on abortion is sort of interesting. Other topics include gasoline price-fixing and events in Eastern Europe. Their community calendar is good. Desperately needs a less busy layout, though. (T-8t)

★★★★★

HUMANIST NEWS Vol. 3 #12-Vol. 4 #1 ($10/yr from Humanist Association, 4418 Josephine Ln., Robbinsdale, MN 55422-1328): A small newsletter for humanists and assorted other nonbelievers in the Minneapolis area. Much of this is simple attacks on religion, generally on smaller groups or on the supposedly inerrant Bible. They also do a lot of work promoting blood donations. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE HURRICANE ($1 from Lawrence San, PO Box 2000, Brookline, MA 02146): Lawrence continues to turn out high-quality minicomics, with typeset stories and attractive art. This one seems to have a sort of spiritual message, although it's disguised as a simple discussion abotu a mysterious hurricane between two anthropomorphized animals. (M-16)

★★★★★

ICE PHOENIX NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #2 ($2 from Mace Sylvan, PO Box 247, Fields Landing, CA 95537): This one is still in start-up mode, seeking a bunch of people to help carry out a vision of a pagan networking organization. The most positive step so far is the collection of a number of exchange ads from the pagan and New Age communities. (S-8)

★★★★★

ICE RIVER #5 ($4 from David Memmott, 953 N. Gale, Union, OR 97883): A collection of somewhat experimental literary offerings and reviews. There are so many gems in this issue it's hard to know what to mention: Denise Dumars poetry, Don Webb on the literary movement he's a part of, a longish disjointed piece by Lance Olsen, Misha reviews of zines...name-dropping aside, there is much fine work here, from a stable of writers that I would be happy to have in my own zine. Not everything works (the penalty for taking chances) but by and large it's all interesting. (S-41t)

★★★★★

IDUNNA Vol. 2 #1 ($4 (?) from Dianne Ross, PO Box 18812, Austin, TX 78760): A hefty spiral-bound journal of Northern European folk religion, which they are reconstructing under the name of the "Elder Troth". The level of scholarship here is high, with assertions in the various articles being well footnoted. Standouts include an article on the use of the runes by women and a discussion of the various levels of family, tribe and so on to which one owes allegiance—which tackles the thorny question of racism and racialism quite sensibly. There are also rituals, notes on interacting with non-believers, translations and more. (S-56t)

★★★★★

THE IIIRD I #2 ($10/4 issues from PO Box 2683, Bellingham, WA 98227-2683): A subscription includes the privilege of submitting camera-ready pages to this zine of "spirituality, religion, metaphysics, worldviews" and other stuff. For this issue, they've put together a number of views of the War on Drugs, which basically boil down to just saying no about just saying no. There's also a proposal to send dead fish to Exxon and some meditational instructions. (D-24t)

★★★★★

I'M GOING TO KILL EVERYBODY #3 ($1 from Purity, 607 E. Dayton, Madison, WI 53703): Morbid collages focusing on death and consumerism and other cheery parts of our society. One particularly assaultive page shows a picture of the space shuttle exploding, captioned simply "Oops". (S-12)

★★★★★

IMPOSSIBLE HUMAN CENTER NEWSLETTER Vol. 3 #1-2 ($12/6 issues from Pyramid research Center, PO Box 5271, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310): These folks are dedicated to creating something like the Homo Novis of Heinlein's "Gulf", through a series of training exercises and relocation to a pristine part of the world with appropriate technology. All sorts of discoveries and ideas not accepted by the scientific establishment get hearings here, and while there are occasional boners, most of their stuff is quite reasonable. (S-8t)

★★★★★

INDUSTRIAL WORKER Vol. 86 #9 ($2/6 months from 3435 N. Sheffield Ave. #202, Chicago, IL 60657): The winds of change seem to be blowing through the One Big Union of the Wobblies. There's an intriguing article on "The Greening of the IWW" in this issue, which is sure to enrage some of the hardline members of the organization. Also of interest is the story of trying to keep labor conditions decent in a co-operative warehouse in Michigan (you'd think co-opers would be better to deal with than owners, but you'd be wrong) and a report from the coal strike. (T-12t)

★★★★★

INFERNO #1 (Jens Sørensen, Vester Altanvej 16, 8900 Randers, DENMARK): I don't see a price here, at least not one that's not in Danish, so perhaps a letter of inquiry would be in order. But it doesn't take any knowledge of the language to figure out that this is about movies, with lots of pictures and a pro look. Coverage includes Baron Munchhausen, Deepstar Six, and Night of the Living Dead. There's also an article on make-up and some horrific comics. (A5-32t)

★★★★★

INFLUX #1 ($1 (?) from Xex Graphix, PO Box 240611, Memphis, TN 38124): A collection of experimental art from a number of leading figures of gruesome underground comics, most notably Bob X and Dennis Worden. Other contributors include Mary Fleener, Capt. Cavern, and Jeff Gaither, and someone named Placid, who does some of the best corrupted human work I've yet seen. Dark and angry, for the most part. (D-24)

★★★★★

INK DISEASE #15 ($2 from 4563 Marmion Way, Los Angeles, CA 90065): One of the stalwarts of the punk usic scene, this one lives on and continues to get better. Thanks to the long span between issues, they have a tone of music reviews in this issue, and even at that they're fairly selective in what they cover. Interviews include Scott Becker (of OPTION magazine), Death Ride 69, and Fugazi. punk is not dead. (S-74t)

★★★★★

INNER VOICE Vol. 1 #1 ($20/yr from AFSEEE, PO Box 11615, Eugene, OR 97440): The fledgling newsletter of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics—a group which wants to work from within to make the US Forest Service into an agency for preserving forests instead of selling them off to timber companies. I wish them the best of luck; life has always been difficult for revolutionaries and whistleblowers. (T-8t)

★★★★★

INSIDE ENVIRONMENT Vol. 1 #3-4 ($18/yr from PO Box 13061, Lexington, KY 40583-3061): This one differs from many environmental publications by paying attention to voices from industry and government as well as those of activists. In doing so they promote a dialogue which could be valuable; certainly there are caring people in some of the tough positions. Acid rain, landfills, CFCs, and other major concerns are covered in each issue. (T-16t)

★★★★★

INSIDE INFORMATION #1-3 (IRCs from c/o PHCI, 11 Forth St., Edinburgh EH1, UK): This is a no-frills newsletter of prisoner support and information. They cover selected cases from around the world, concentrating on "prisoners of class conflict, injustice, and opposition". There's much in these pages on John Perotti's struggle as an IWW organizer behind bars in Ohio. (A4-2t)

★★★★★

INSIDE JOKE #71 ($1.50 [NO TRADES] from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): Comedy and creativity, comics and television, Ackner and Thornley, all in a package that's been appearing regularly for nine years now. There's a lot of fun here, and a sense of community spirit among the contributors and letter writers. If you're interested in the world of silly stuff that surrounds us, you might like to take a dip in this pond. (S-32r)

★★★★★

THE INSIDER #4 ($8/yr from Teo Graca, PO Box 4542, Arlington, VA 22204): A short monthly zine devoted to musicians in the Arlington area. They talk about contests and zines and musicians, and review a few records. They also have a bunch of records avalable by mail, not new stuff but older material. (S-2)

★★★★★

THE INSIDER GUN NEWS Vol. 3 #9-11 ($50/yr from The Gunpress Publishing Company, PO Box 3257, Alexandria, VA 22302-3257): All the news (and gossip) on the gun industry, with particular attention to incompetence at the NRA, bidding for military and FBI firearms, and fighting gun bans. Astute, experienced, and straightforward in its defense of the Bill of Rights. #11 is largely devoted to recounting the story of how the FBI is switching to 10mm ammo, and what's wrong with their procedures. (S-4)

★★★★★

INSIDE TRACK Oct. 1989 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 369, Hammonton, NJ 08037): "The International Newsletter for the Amusement Park and Roller Coaster Enthusiast", this one targets a specific but, I suspect, rather wide audience. They feature pictures of the latest coasters (there's a terrifying one in Germany with five vertical loops...excuse me while I lose my lunch) and news on who's building what where. (S-6t)

★★★★★

INSIGHTS FOR POSITIVE LIVING #46-47 ($15/yr from 202-E Main St., Spring, TX 77373): A New Age journal that seems aimed mostly at believers rather than outsiders or beginners. There's reports from the latest followup ceremonies to the Harmonic Convergence, astrology, numerology, even nutrition here. There's also an advice column that seems willing to tackle most any spiritual complaint and longer metaphysical articles. (T-20t)

★★★★★

THE INSIPID SIX #1-2 ($1 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A take-off on some well-known comics heroes we need not name here. The Insipid Six is a team of folks with rather pedestrian secret origins and useless super powers who manage to get in the way of legitimate law enforcement agencies and screw up typical superhero situations. Funny but lowkey. (D-12)

★★★★★

(in•sīt) #2 ($5/6 issues from PO Box 17406, Arlington, VA 2226): A newsletter of opinion with a vaguely left slant. They call for a general strike, give some impressionistic views of the anarchist gathering, and look at the State Department's inability to talk straight. There's also reviews of some marginal books and a Pixies album. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE INSOMNIAC #18 ($15/4 issues from Lynne Parcells, 1310 Sussex St., Portage, MI 49002): This "Journal of Opinion and the Arts" is sort of a renegade Mensa publication—not endorsed by that organization and with its pages open to folks from all of its political factions. Fortunately bickering only takes up a minor portion, with the rest devoted to serious philosophy, crazy humor, the occasional sex joke, and a fascinating letter column. The latter includes running commentary from the editor, who presides over a bunch of individualists with a deft wit and the occasional non sequitir. (Hey Lynne, what about that smooch?). (HL-76t)

★★★★★

INSPIRACY HITLIST #1 (25¢ & a stamp from High Improbability International, PO Box 523, Columbia Station, OH 44028-0523): A new collection

THE INSIDER is a monthly newsletter edited by Teo Graca highlighting the best music in the Mid-Atlantic area! Get a sample copy today for $1.00 or a one-year subscription for $8.00. Make check or money order payable to Teo Graca and send to PO Box 4542, Arlington, VA 22204.

of rants and addresses from the marginal. This issue features a couple of slams at the SubGenii (including the Bob Black review of HIGH WEIRDNESS, in case you haven't seen it yet) and a Carole Davis discography. (L-2t)

★★★★★

INSTAURATION Vol. 14 #11-12 ($5 from Howard Allen Enterprises, PO Box 76, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920): A journal explictly directed at those who support the preservation of white "majority" culture in this country. They have an awful lot to say about the unsavory characteristics of blacks and Jews, though they do find some good things to say about Spike Lee and black separatism, for example. #11 also has a eulogy for Edward Abbey and notes on the current meaning of various code words in the media. (S-44t)

★★★★★

INTERCEPTED Vol. 8 #12-14 ($1.10 from Kay Shapero, 12536 Short Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066): This one is decidedly...different. Start by thinking of a role-playing game where no one knows the rules. Now imagine it played by classified ads, placed in the names of the characters, by mostly-anonymous players. Now put all the ads in one place and you've got INTERCEPTED. Various folks from the Addams Family, Star Wars, Doctor Who, HP Lovecraft, and other more-or-less mainstream media are involved. A bit confusing at first, but amusing and mutable. For 55¢ you can get a biography list of major characters which will help out somewhat should you decide to participate. (S-8)

★★★★★

INTERNATIONAL HUMANIST Oct. 1989 ($13/4 issues from IHEU, Oudkerkhof 11, 3512 GH Utrecht, HOLLAND): The publication of an umbrella federation of a number of national humanist groups. They reprint things from constituent periodicals as well as original articles. Topics here include the philosophy of Jacob Bronowski, the relation between science and New Age thinking, and whether Humanism is a religion. (S-16t)

★★★★★

INTERRACIAL CLUB OF BUFFALO NEWSLETTER Oct. 1989 ($6.25/6 issues from PO Box 400, Amherst Branch, Buffalo, NY 14226): This one is for racially-mixed families, whether they be interracial marriages, adoptions, or other relationships. They track mentions of such families in the news and entertainment media and reprint selected newspaper coverage. They also provide some support services for those seeking to navigate through our society. (S-11)

★★★★★

IN THE WORK #3 (On Request from Globe Press Books, PO Box 2045, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): This one is published "As a Service to the Gurdjieff Community Worldwide"—the Work referred to is the somewhat mystical path of self-enlightenment taught by Gurdjieff. They publicize bits of those teachings, as well as modern additions to them, and feature a bulletin board for students to stay in touch with events and useful services. (S-4t)

★★★★★

INTUITIVE EXPLORATIONS Vol. 4 #4 ($2 from PO Box 561, Quincy, IL 62306-0561): A collection of New Age topics, from dream work to gemstones (the latter in a commentary from someone claiming to be "a 123rd-generation Druidic Priest"). They run short articles on things like cabala, and longer ones on philosophical topics. There's also a classified section for folks to pass on thyeir no longer wanted books. (S-24)

★★★★★

ISSUES & VIEWS Vol. 5 #1-3 ($8/yr from PO Box 467. Cathedral Stn., New York, NY 10025): This one calls itself "An open forum on issues affecting the black community", and their basic premise is a simple one: that free enterprise works better than waiting for Big Brother to provide. They talk to folks currently running successful inner city businesses and programs, profile historical figures, and discuss the basics of black self-sufficiency. Well researched if a bit polemical in places. (S-12t)

★★★★★

JAG Vol. 27 #9 (On Request from 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): A frequent broadsheet which promotes free enterprise and standing on one's own feet. In this issue, Dr. Jaggard reports on the work of IATROS, an international organization of "private and independent doctors". (L-1)

★★★★★

THE JAILFISH REVIEW Vol. 1 #1 ($4.25 from 124 1/2 Broadway E #16, Seattle, WA 98102): An intriguing collection of writing which sticks mainly to everyday subjects but looks at them through new eyes. The descriptions here flower, the situations compound as they do in real life, but nothing is ever as we expect it. I quite enjoyed Tina Carstensen's lyrical poetry and the wistful story by Emily Carter, "A Nice Man Buys Glory B. A Drink". Engaging openness makes this a new one to keep an eye on. (D-62t)

★★★★★

THE JAMES WHITE REVIEW Vol. 7 #1 ($2 from PO Box 3356, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55403): A specialized literary quarterly, directed at gay men. The centerpiece of this issue is a series of excerpts from the forthcoming autobiography of poet Harold Norse, discussing everyone from Dylan Thomas to Italian street bums. There's also a somewhat shuddery poem from Michael Estok and a well-done story by John Rosario, "Lovers Anonymous", about a young man struggling with his own sexuality. (T-16t)

★★★★★

JASPER THREAD'S ZINE REVIEW #2 (SASE from Dead Milkmen, PO Box 58152, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8152): An occasional supplement to the DEAD MILKMEN NEWSLETTER, listing and briefly (even more briefly than here) reviewing the zines that the band gets. It's mostly music, of course. Tucked away on the back is a bit of DM tour news. (S-2r)

★★★★★

THE JED YARICK NEWSLETTER ($2 from 2500 W. 6th St. #308, Lawrence, KS 66044): A perzine (that is, one which is mostly devoted to the life of the author) from a college student out in the Midwest. As you might expect, Jed writes of beer and football and saving seats in class, plus rock and roll and beer (yeah, more than once). Still, there are flashes of insight and sensitivity here, and it's lightweight fun. (S-6)

★★★★★

JERSEY BEAT #38 ($2 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): Bigger than ever, JB is still concentrating on the punk music scene in the NY-NJ area, and staying fresh while they do it. There's a big chunk of this one devoted to the undersung drummers of various punk bands, with a dozen of them answering the same questions. American Standard, Shades Apart, New Music Seminar, music and zine reviews all get mixed in somewhere as well. Nice photos too and a constant supportive attitude. (S-48t)

★★★★★

JOURNAL OF THE MEGAHEALTH SOCIETY Vol. 5 #1-3 ($3 from PO Box 60637, Palo Alto, CA 94306): A newsletter for those trying to sort out the confusing medical evidence on life extension and other controversial health therapies. They run a mix of reviews, interviews with people in the field, and original articles, as well as a question and answer column. Some topics in these issues include the uses of activated charcoal, the connections between iron, anemia and vitamin C, and our possible aquatic descent. Plenty of back issues and other literature are also available. (S-8t)

★★★★★

JUICY SNAP #2 (75¢ from Eric Fisher, 271 Hendrix Pl., Philadephia, PA 19116): Very strange writing from Eric, mostly about the wonders of growing up and being in high school. There's a line between reality and fantasy here which he seems to cross frequently in his tales of SAT tests, the Junior Prom, and getting almost caught sleeping at a girl's house. (S-10)

★★★★★

JU-JU (25¢ from C.C. Cilla, PO Box 41302, Tucson, AZ 85717-1302): A microcomic which seems to make little (if any) sense. It features a tree, a man with a rotating finger, and a pair of dastardly crickets with an aversion to Pepsi. Nice clean art. (MM-16)

★★★★★

JUTE'S ZINE Vol. 1 #1-2 (3 stamps or $1 from 1028 St. Johns #4, Billings, MT 59102): A short zine put together by Jute and some friends to communicate about the things that are important in their lives—chiefly music, having fun, and hot hunks and/or babes. There's a page of the latest slang updatesd and a review of Skid Row's music in #1, along with a reader survey to determine the course of the zine. (S-12)

★★★★★

THE KANSAS INTELLIGENCER Vol. 3 #10-11 ($12/12 issues from 5524 Anderson Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502): A "monthly polemic" of generally conservative bent, but always based on independent thought rather than some party line. In #10 publisher R.W. Clack examines the founding of the ACLU and while agreeing with many of its goals is worried by the socialism of its founder. There are also items on taxation, POWs, and the Bill of Rights. (L-2t)

★★★★★

KEYSTONE SOCIALIST Fall 1989 (Donation from Socialist Party of PA, 2208 South St., Philadelphia, PA 19146): A short collection of news and editorial matter aimed at those who are pretty much already socialists of one stripe or another. This issue takes President Bush to task for a racist drug plan, includes a bit of socialist humor, and eulogizes Michael Harrington. (S-5)

★★★★★

KIDSCIENCE Vol. 5 #2 ($2 from 2215 Doswell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108): A newsletter for elementary-age science teachers, though it could be of use to anyone with kids in the right grades. This issue presents a unit on sounds, with all sorts of sound-making and sound-investigating activities. I certainly would have appreciated this when I was younger. Come to think of it, I still pound on a lot of things now. (S-20)

★★★★★

KINDRED SPIRITS JOURNAL #11 $5/4 issues from PO Box 542, Lewisburg, PA 17837): A bioregional journal for the Pennsylvania Ave. They feature a fair chunk of writing on the glories of nature, notes on how to protect it, book reviews, and some short bits. Nice article by Keith Wilson on caving in this issue, along with a centerfold map of proposed special management land areas. (T-20t)

★★★★★

KING-CAT COMICS AND STORIES #7-8 (35¢ from John Porcellino, 1954 Brookside Ln., Hoffman Estates, IL 60194): Documentation of John's life (and sometimes other things) in comic form. #7 is fun, a special "Back to Nature" issue with all sorts of annoying mosquitoes, bees, and other critters. #8 has a couple of weird visual stories and documentation (with sample) of a recent haircut. (D-12)

★★★★★

KNOT MAGAZINE #2 ($1 (?) from 60 Verndale St., Brookline, MA 02146): A new music zine for the Boston area which is trying to concentrate on the lesser-publicized artists in the area. In #2 their lead story is on Sleep Chamber. I was more fascinated by the Tod Machover (author of the VALIS opera) interview. There's also a bit on the Ski-A-Delics plus some reviews. (S-16t)

★★★★★

KNUCKLEHEAD PRESS Vol. LII #II ($5/4 issues from PO Box 305, Burbank, CA 91503): A newsletter of humor ranging from sophisticated on down. While some parts (like the "Bum's Rush" mini-newsletter of homeless humor) are of questionable taste, most of this is just silly and amusing. "Khomeni Alive: Living in Wisconsin", the opening headline, sets the pace. (S-8t)

★★★★★

KREATURE COMFORTS Vol. II #4 ($1.45 from 1916 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38104): A humorous slice through Memphis life and music. Plenty of music in this issue, actually, including a full page of tiny-print Elvis year in review stuff. There's also notes on a couple of current films, a review of the food at the local jail, and plenty on the live music scene in Memphis. Also includes one of the ubiquitous White Boy insert minibooks. (S-12r)

★★★★★

THE KRONICLES OF THE KILLER PIGS OF THE PLANET ZOOM-ZOOM AND OTHHER STUPID GAMES AND STORIES CREATED BY ME BECAUSE I WAS BORED ONE DAY Vol. 1 #2 (50¢ from John Beasley, 413 Corapeake Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23320): The title may still be longer than this zine of rambling literature and pigs. The writing is disjointed, almost experimental but it doesn;t seem to be a conscious experiment. Jim Bakker gets labelled a pig in this issue, which also features a somewhat bloody comic. (S-4)

★★★★★

KROOD #1 ($3 from Rusell Christian, 137 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205): This is Russel's new "Home for Orphaned Graphics"—stuff too obscure or too weird to have appeared anywhere else. It includes some "picture poems", some comics without a sensible plot, lots of harsh distortions of modern life, and a few written pieces. Frightening and fascinating. (S-28)

★★★★★

KULTCHA #124-126 ($1/5 issues from Kerry Thornley, PO Box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307): Another of Kerry Thornley's wall newspapers, trying to make the truth available in easily digested chunks. #126 is an excellent rant on "The Lost Art of Minding Your Own Business". Kerry also talks about Maoism, greediness, and other political topics. An extension of the ideas from his FF column into a more organized form. (S-1)

★★★★★

LACTUCA #11-12 ($3.50 fro Mike Selender, PO Box 621, Suffern, NY 10901): A litmag with a preference for hard, dangerous, emotional, daring work. There's a lot of wars and rumors of wars in these issues, as well as murders and love. About 80% poetry, but one of the stories stands out most strongly in my mind: Ruthann Robson's "Habeas Corpus", in #12, which brings the death penalty down to a matter of a game between people. (HL-72t)

★★★★★

THE LAME MONKEY MANIFESTO Vol. 3 #19 ($1 from PO Box 8763, Knoxville, TN 37996-4800): A college-based underground paper which seems to be getting more politically active lately, though they maintain their wild SubGenial sense of humor. This issue has a nice listing of alternative groups in the area, plus one of BBS's to call. There's also fiction and campus news. plus a memory of Fred Hampton. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE LAND NEWSLETTER #5 ($20/yr from Ridgehaven, PO Box 862, Glen Ellen, CA 95442): It seems that a lot of people are thinking about buying land and building alternative communities these days. This newsletter aims to offer a bit of help. It leads off with some notes on finding land for sale and reports on the Rainbow Project to find space in Belize for a peace village. There's also a section of ads. Small but with potential. (S-4t)

★★★★★

LAUGHTER WORKS Vol. 1 #2-3 (Sample for SASE from 222 Selby Ranch Rd. #4, Sacramento, CA 95864): This is a slick-looking humor newsletter, with the undertext that humor is good for things—and not just for making us laugh, either. Stress reduction, surviving the workplace, and getting over terminal illnesses are a few of the uses here. Plenty of chuckles in each issue alongside dry testimonials. (S-8t)

★★★★★

L'ECHO DES CHANTIERS #3 ($1 from Kurt Beaulieu, 4230 Pierre de Coubertin #5, Montreal, QC, H1V 1A4, CANADA): A collection of art and comics, mainly making fun of Pierre Tremblay. There's sort of a new primitivism here; these things look deliberately abstracted rather than accidentally so. French-language captions with some English. (D-12)

★★★★★

LEFT BUSINESS OBSERVER #32-33 ($2 from 250 W. 85 St., New York, NY 10024-3217): An alternate view of the business and financial view—at least it's definitely an alternative if you live in a town dominated by a Hearst newspaper, as I do. Editor Doug Henwood knows his stuff, and generally manages to explain it to the lay reader. #32 opens with an examination of deregulation and the way in which it has hurt real people. It also talks about the administration's stand on trading with South Africa and the current state of junk bonds. #33 reports on the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE LEGAL REFORMER Vol. 10 #1 ($15/yr from HALT, 1319 F St. NW #300, washington, DC 20004): HALT is a group aiming for legal reform in this country, so as to make the law a tool for settling disputes rather than enriching lawyers. This issue features a study of a system for arbitrating fee disputes with lawyers. There are also news briefs from all over, and some rather amusing language from current decisions. (S-28t)

★★★★★

THE LEIGHTON LOOK Sept.-Oct. 1989 ($1 from Rodney Leighton, RR#3, Pugwash, NS, B0K 1L0, CANADA): This one is a combination of wrestling and reviews—of all sorts of things, whatever Rodney gets in the mail. He's particularly into promoting interchange between people who mail junk back and forth, sort of like the FF Zine Exchange on a decentralized scale. He'll also review anything, and catches a few that fall through the cracks here. Plus he talks about wrestling, which may or may not be a bonus, depending on your point of view. (S-10)

★★★★★

LE LOJBO KARNI #10 ($1.68 from The Logical Language Group, 2904 Beau Ln., Fairfax, VA 22031): No, your eyes don't deceive you, that's not English—it's Lojban, a new artificial language which seems to be gaining adherents, or at least interested bystanders, quickly. This is the newsletter for people who are interested in the language but not yet fluent—i.e., the contents are in English, and primarily describe what the Group is up to. #10 includes a review of the recent book on Loglan (Lojban's progenitor) and lots of news on publicity and language development. (S-22)

★★★★★

LEPER COTILLION #1 ($1 (?) from PO Box 170706, San Francisco, CA 94117): Really arty music criticism that goes a bit overboard with the desktop publishing tricks. Mudhoney, Union Carbide, and Miracle Workers are the main musical attractions here, along with a bunch of longish reviews. There's also a lengthy analysis of the Batman movie and its sociological implications. There's something here, but I'm not yet positive what it is. (S-26t)

★★★★★

THE LESBIAN NEWS Vol. 15 #2 ($$15/yr from Jinx Beers, 6507 Franrivers Ave., West Hills, CA 91307): This one is aimed at lesbians in the Southern California area, and it's almost entirely made up of announcements and short news bits. There's a lot going on in this community, and they seem to be

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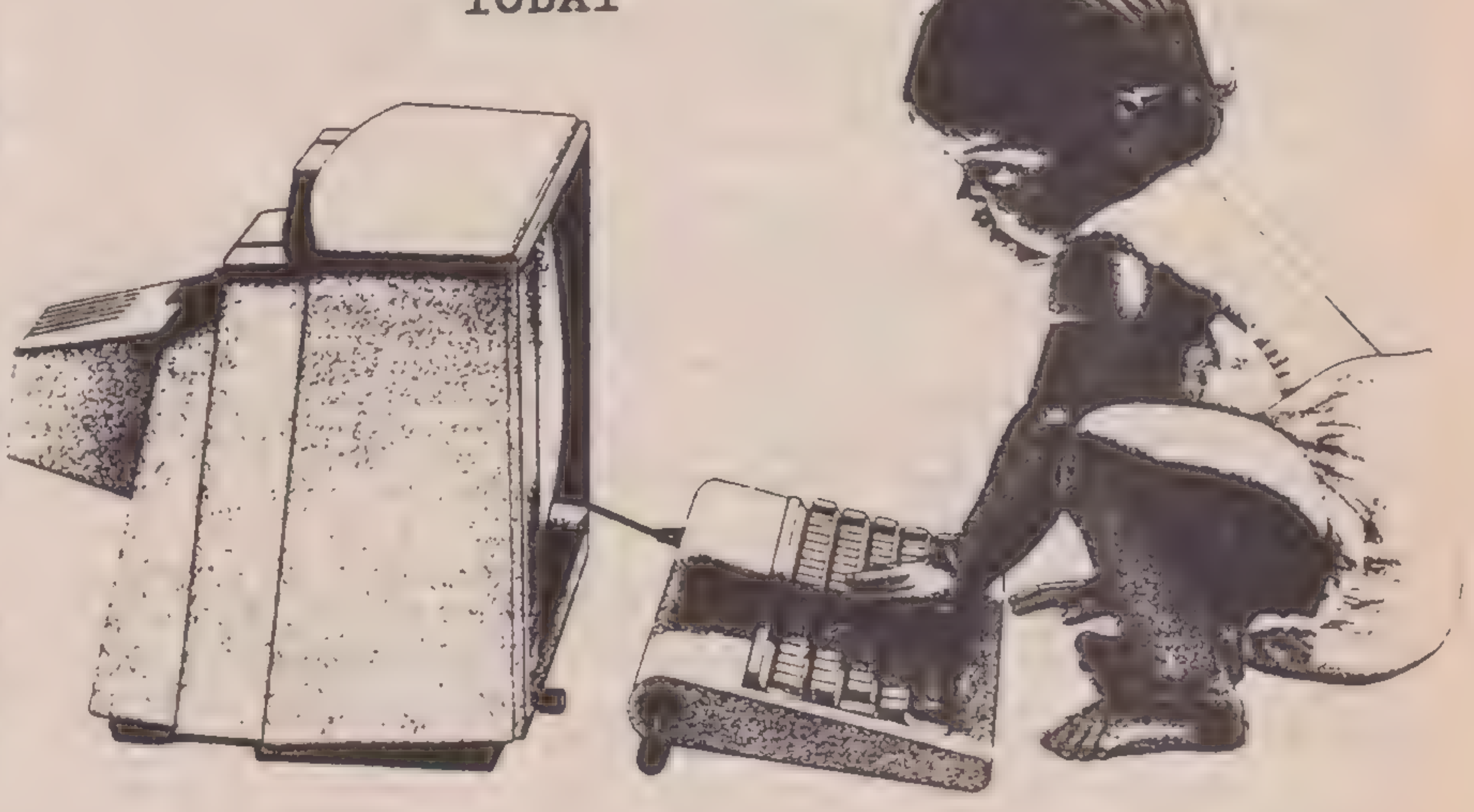

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in touch with it all. There's a front page feature article and an opinion column later, plus letters and classifieds. They also review books of interest. (T-44r)

★★★★★

THE LETTER EXCHANGE #19 ($5 from PO Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706): The heart of this zine is the listings from people wanting more mail. They get it; as of June, LEX (as it's affectionately known) had forwarded 50,000 letters, and were responsible for many more than that. I found it a great way to meet interesting people when I had the time to do so, and some of those correspondences survive today. Listings are cheap to subscribers, and there are also pages of notes on the fine art of letter writing. (D-36t)

★★★★★

LETTRE DOCUMENTAIRE #1 (50Fr./12 issues from Philippe Billé, B.P. 249, 33012 Bordeaux, FRANCE): The successor zine to DOCUMENTS-PAGES, this one is still somewhere around the mail art axis, though perhaps reaching out more broadly. Entirely in French, the first issue features an interview between Stewart Home and Ralph Rumney on Situationism and its history. (A5-4r)

★★★★★

THE LETTER PARADE Fall 1989 ($1 (?) from Bonnie Jo Enterprises, PO Box 52, Comstock, MI 49041): This is a personal newsletter, of the sort you might not think exists any more: writing about Bonnie Joe's adventures, together with cartoons and other things that strike her fancy. There's a strong vein of humor here, particularly in the reprinted news coverage. (S-10)

★★★★★

LIBERTARIAN FAMILIST Vol. 8 #7-8 (On Request from 5205 Fairbanks #4, El Paso, TX 79924): A journal for those interested in a family-based conception of Libertarianism, most concerned with the rights of children. Tom Tanaka has a long essay in #7 laying out what he sees as the legitimate rights of parents and children, going into some philosophical depth and pretty much in line with the mainline Libertarian position. #8 is largely devoted to the raging abortion debate, from libertarian points of view. (S-8t)

★★★★★

LIFE COMICS & STORIES #4 ($1 from Victor Gates, 552 Lancelot Dr., North Salt Lake, UT 84054): A minicomic that's drawing a lot of fine work, thanks to Victor's innovative idea: this is a place for "real stories about real people". The bulk of the contents are autobiographical sketches, with contributions from Robin Reed, Mick Cusimano, Larry and Eleanor Tanner, and more. It's nice to know that the small pressers don't lead boring lives. (M-24)

★★★★★

LIFE IS A JOKE #5 ($1 from 2288 Hawk, Simi Valley, CA 93065): Crazy comics and survival tips that, tongue in cheek, do a lot to make modern life look stupid. Editor/artist Joe Franke looks at the world sideways. For example, one of his graphic comics is captioned "Isn't it convenient that we breathe oxygen rather than cat blood?" I like this stuff. (D-20)

★★★★★

LIFE ON PLANET EARTH Vol. 2 #8 (SASE or trade from Embassy of Planet Claire, PO Box 3194, Bellingham, WA 98227): A collection of essays, many at least faintly humorous, put out by J.C. Coleman whenever the mood strikes. This issue starts with a consideration of the possibility of FTL travel, moves into the secret of scamming the credit companies by dying young, and ends up with some zine reviews. There's also a Fat Mike comic strip, a consistent feature. (S-4t)

★★★★★

LIFEPACT NEWS #6 ($3 from PO Box 18698, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706): These folks are forming a support group to help at the other end of the cryonic process—the reanimation stage. They're developing ways to make one's wishes for the future and memories of the present known and available when technology advances to the point of waking dead people back up. So far it's in an organizational stage, but things are gelling fast. Looks like a useful addition to the spectrum of life extension groups. (HL-40r)

★★★★★

LIGHT & LIBERTY #4 ($10/4 issues from Lawrence E. Christopher, PO Box 33, Woodstock, NY 12498): Lawrence is searching for people who believe that strinking a balance in ideology and tolerating those with other ideas is important. One chunk of this issue explores the idea of a Decentralist Network, an overarching and amorphous organization which could act as a catalyst to bring well-intentioned groups together in pop fronts. He also discusses the problems of revenge and their relation to detachment. (S-8)

★★★★★

LIGHT/LINES #30 (Donation from PO Box 5195, Louisville, KY 40205): A short newsletter of "telepathic channelings" from spirits and consciousnesses who are definitely into white light and peace and understanding and love and other New Age motherhoods. I find it to be sort of bland, but others might like this as a springboard to contemplation of the universe. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE LIL' RHINO GAZETTE #14 ($2 from Underground Publications, PO Box 14139, Arlington, TX 76094-1139): With the extended vacation of former co-editor Couzin, this issue is about evenly split between comics and music. The former is pretty interesting stuff, comparative interviews and reviews of folks including Carrie, Brad Foster, John E., and D. Worden. On the latter, we have interviews with Fetchin' Bones and the Plunge, reviews, and an advice column for record collectors in love. (HL-48r)

★★★★★

LITERARY MARKETS #48 ($12/yr from Bill Marles, PO Drawer 1310, Point Roberts, WA 98281-1310): A no-frills listing of publication opportunities in the small press, with each one explained as to themes and requirements. Bill also puts in some editorial and review matter, as well as the occasional short poem. (S-6)

★★★★★

LITTLE FREE PRESS #70 (SASE from 2714 1st Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408): Ernest Mann, the editor here, is the purveyor of the Priceless Economic System, which proposes to eliminate all sorts of problems by eliminating money. He's explained all that in past issues; now the main thrust is sort of an irregular diary detailing his efforts to live simply in today's world. Engaging writing, and it's free (except for postage, of course). (S-4t)

★★★★★

LITTLE SUTTY'S QUEST FOR MUSIC ($$4 from Monster Truck Cartoons, 374 Pimlico Rd., Greenville, SC 29607): A collection of Mark Blackwell's music review comics from SPIN. Sutty is a sort of new wave character, listening to stuff like XTC and the new Yes and Elvis Costello. His friends are a motley bag of trendies and mad scientists, and in four panels they usually manage to get in the way of saying too much about music. (HL-12)

★★★★★

LIVING AMONG NATURE DARINGLY #11 ($2 from 4466 Ike Mooney Rd., Silverton, OR 97381): This one is for folks who want to get out of the cities and back to the land. They differ from a couple of other publications in the field by explicitly considering trapping as well as farming; the main feature in this issue is about setting traps for beavers. There's also stuff on raising dairy goats, medicinal herb teas, the advantages of whole wheat, and more. Editor Bill Anderson is also interested in promoting discussion and a friendly, community spirit here. (S-32t)

★★★★★

LIVING FREE #53 ($1.25 from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): A journal of libertarian opinion and suggestions on how to get away from the government. Self-sufficiency is perhaps the main thread here, but Jim's correspondents wander off in many directions. #53 includes his criticism of the LROC and further debate on the Bernhard Goetz case, as well as some notes from China. (S-8r)

★★★★★

LLEWELLYN NEW TIMES #896 ($2 from PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383): A combination book catalog and magazine from a major publisher of New Age, magick, astrology, and similar books. It's packed with zillions of little ads, and the articles are come-ons for other books. They also carry New Age gift items, like the "Atlantean Power Rod" for only five bucks. (S-88t)

★★★★★

LOAFING THE DONKEY #28($1 from 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104): A combination movie and music zine. Editor Peter Mantis generally sticks to classics in the movies, with a bit on the original Superman flick and a review of Kiss Me Deadly in this issue. Musically, it runs from the Byrds to the latest release from the Tomboys. (D-28r)

★★★★★

THE LOG CABIN #101-102 ($1 from Jerry Edwards, PO Box 881, Medical Lake, WA 99022-0881): A MENSA-based newsletter for folks living in the country or anxious to do so, from the "Back to the land" movement. It's a chatty place, with folks offering each other advice on gardening and seeds, living lightly, real estate prices, and places to look for land. Quite friendly and open to non-MENSAns as well. (D-16r)

★★★★★

LOLA-FISH #1 (3 IRCs (?) from Bruno Pommey, 36, Residence Jean Mace, 28300 Mainvilliers, FRANCE): An international mini of mail art, from the former producer of LA BANANE. Bruno reviews a bunch of zines, lists a few projects needing submissions, and prints a fair amount of art considering the small format. Nice edge piece by Mike Miskowski in this issue. (M-16r)

★★★★★

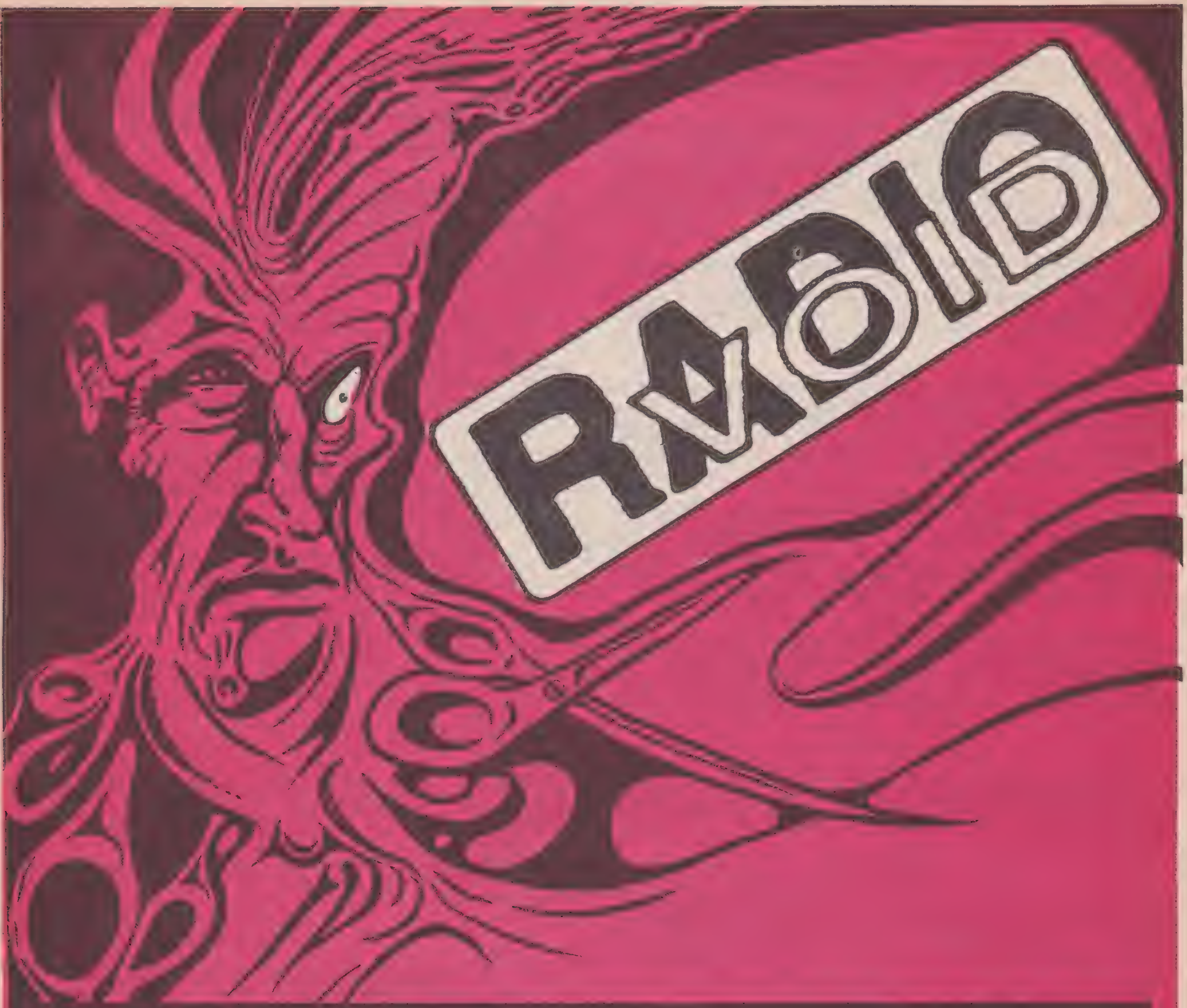
LONGEVITY REPORT #17 ($14.67/6 issues from J. de Rivaz, Longevity Books, West Towan House, Porthtowan, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8AX, UK): A collection of letters (mostly) and articles about life extension. Various people here are looking at various approaches, with cryonics and nutrition being the most common themes. There are recommendations on particular things to try, debates on optimum strategy, and a general aura of hope. Low budget but reasonable packed with info. (A4-16)

★★★★★

LOOK-WITHIN #1 (2 25¢ stamps from Dan, 4075 Minuet Cir., W.V.C., UT 84119): A new zine from the music scene with more graphics than words for the first issue. The major written part is an interview with the Klusterfux. Dan also prints ads for other zines he likes, lots of artwork, and a short bunch of record and tape reviews. Lots of positive energy here, so I'm sure it will grow. (D-24r)

★★★★★

THE LOST PERUKE #12-13 ($1.25 from PO Box 1525, Highland Park, NJ 08904): A small collection of humor and off-the-wall remarks. In #12, editor Paul Kellerman treats us to some of the letters and phone calls which past issues have garnered and supplies a few dozen opening lines for novels and



"Closer to the standard of mainstream magazines is 'Radio Void', produced by Cranston resident Brian Gallagher and a small group of friends. It is a substantial package of short stories, poetry, plays, reviews, and interviews, illustrated with arty photographs and cartoons."
—Maria Miro Johnson
Sunday Journal Bulletin, Providence.

"A vivacious literary zine. Well, no, that's too stuffy for them: this is more a romp in poetry and prose and art and theater than one would find in, say, a college English department."
—Mike Gunderloy, ***Factsheet Five***

"...vastly under-appreciated..."
—Michael Caito, ***The Phoenix Newpaper***, Providence.

And, your stereo/boombox might want to know that our current issue (Issue #9) is a 90 minute cassette tape which one local music critic described in the following (edited) manner:

"The quirky, zany Providence literary mag's occassionally gross compilation tape is quite a scream, screeching and lurching from Zappa-Python humor (see 'Women's Prison Movies' Obligatory Shower Scene' by John Grey) to not-of-this-galaxy music...like the magazine itself and the music of AS [a local performance/ gallery space], it challenges convention and provokes contemplation. In some cases, it will produce complete befuddlement. *Now* you're getting it. Not to miss."
—Michael Caito
The Phoenix Newpaper, Providence

A subscription to RADIO VOID costs $5.00 for four issues (Issue #9—the tape—goes for $5.00. $3.00 to subscribers.)

Contributing poems, stories, essays, plays, illustrations, photos, songs,—whatever!—to the magazine would...be nice. Yes, very nice indeed.

The deadline for contributors rears its ugly head at the end of January.

Whatever your decision, I'll be waiting at:

RADIO VOID
POB 5983
Providence, R.I. 02903

That's all for me. **Sayonara**
Brian T. Gallagher
Editor

stories. There's also political commentary and snide remarks. #13 covers the current news, in a crazy every which way laid out issue. (D-26)

★★★★★

LUCID #48 ($6/6 issues from Dale Adams, 3041 Stanton Cir., Carmichael, CA 95608): The journal of the Truth SIG of MENSA, a group exploring "topics of philosophical and contemporary interest". This issue is largely centered around the theme of "God and Demons", with various proofs and characteristics of the divine being explored. There's also a short bit by Grady Towers listing the maximum IQs recommended for some jobs as evidence of discrimination against geniuses. (D-20r)

★★★★★

LUGUBRIOUS LAUGHS #7 1/2 ($1 & a stamp from Frank Young, 1112 S. Magnolia #V-203, Tallahassee, FL 32301): The major feature in this comic is "Parts Pups", featuring a couple of bit players in comics and their more successful compatriot, now into women and drugs. There's some sketches of unusual personalities, a pullout rock history poster, and other odds and ends. (D-24)

★★★★★

MADALYN MURRAY O'HAIR #1 (SASE from Fred Woodworth, PO Box 3488, Tucson, AZ 85722): The first in a planned series about this "Sleazy Embarrassment to All Who Oppose Religion", this one is subtitled "Madalyn the Censor". it presents a blast against the head of the American Atheists organization with a transcript of a talk show where she doesn't sound very much in favor of free speech. (M-6)

★★★★★

THE MADISON INSURGENT Vol. 3 #7-9 ($15/yr from PO Box 704, Madison, WI 53701): A collectively-published leftist newspaper which is a decent source for keeping up with all the varied causes these days. #7 leads off with the story of the fight against BGH and the Lesbian/Gay pride march in Dubuque, for example. #8 runs down the sordid history of the CIA in preparation to protests of recruiting on campus. (T-8t)

★★★★★

A MADMAN'S DREAM Vol. 2 #1 (60¢ from Aartvark, 6934 Calvin Ave., Reseda, CA 91335): This one started as an alternative school paper, and it still has some connections that way, but now the editor is trying to turn it into a general forum for your opinions. Printing quality is pretty poor, but folks here are talking about religion, drugs, the environment and political issues. (S-6)

★★★★★

MAGAPHONE #3 ($1 from lee Markosian, 415 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110): A mini-collection of rants, public and private. Lee ruminates over the meaning of "newness", tackles the pigeons in the park, and discusses dealing with dogfights. Sprinkled amidst this are small graphics. It's pretty interesting stuff, raving that makes a point. (M-40t)

★★★★★

MAIL Vol. 1 #4 ($24/7 issues from Gold Key Box 2425, Milford, PA 18337-9607): "The Journal of Communication Distribution" has some professional interest for me, though it's aimed at much larger mailroom operations. Articles and ads cover sorters, mailroom design, work measurement, bar coding, and other hot technologies. Of note is the statistic that the average household receives 20.2 pieces of mail a week; I think I'm taking somewhat more than my share (FF runs about 500 pieces a week). (S-78t)

★★★★★

MANNEQUIN SOCIETY #3 ($1 (?) from Nonoxynol-9, PO Box 7792, Rego Park, NY 11374): This is the "backwards issue" of John Six's zine, which means that the layout is more confusing than usual. Most of this is collage, with an eye towards the lousy state of affairs in New York City and similar subjects (like death). There's also an interview with Sockeye. (D-20r)

★★★★★

MARVELOUS MARTHA'S ACTION COMICS #1-2 ($2 from PO Box 10696, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3696): A new and crazy comics collection. I liked #2 quite a bit, since several strong pieces stand out: Greg O'Malley's wordless trip "Extreme Magnification", Richard Gatten's SF-spook "Out With a Bang", and Joel Orff's surreal "The Bakery". A good range of styles and stories. (D-44)

★★★★★

MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL #77-78 ($2.50 from PO Box 288, Berkeley, CA 94701): A gargantuan lump of music and punk culture that still comes out like clockwork. Besides the letters, reviews, classified ads, scene reports and columns, they have plenty of features. #77 interviews include Uniform Choice and yours truly; there's articles on Ska and Deep Ecology and the anarchist gathering; and lots of folks shooting their mouth off. An essential institution of the punk community. #78 has their first ever questionnaire, a squatting article, Anti Racist Action interview, Positive Force DC, plus Slapshot and Orifice. (S-128t)

★★★★★

MAX(ine)'S TWO PAGES ($1 from PO Box 866, Manchester, GA 31816): Two pages of thoughts and ramblings from the mysterious Max(ine). This time around it's a sort of mythical story of law and justice, together with a few zine reviews. Impossible to guess what's coming next from this enigmatic source. (S-2)

★★★★★

MEAN STREETS #2 (50¢ from Concrete Caverns Graphix, 70A Greenwich Ave. #186, New York, NY 10011): These folks are trying to develop something relatively new: a critical mode of thinking about comics which appreciates them as a gestalt, rather than as words plus pictures. The major essay in this issue is Leela Galaxy's "Some Thoughts on Zot!". They also publish "Current 5 Lists" from anyone who cares to send one in. (D-8t)

★★★★★

MEGAZINE BULLETIN #15(3 IRCs or so from De Media, Molenstraat 165, 9900 Eeklo, BELGIUM): A special issue of this review of the small press, put out for the Europe Against the Current festival. They continue to review new zines as they find them, and to collect for their "Small Mags Archive". Not geared to the English speaker, but a valuable research resource for those interested in zines from Europe as well as the USA. (A4-8r)

★★★★★

MEN TALK Vol. 13 #2/3 ($2.50 from The Men's Center, 3255 Hennepin Ave. S #45, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A flagship periodical of the "Men's Movement"—men whose consciousnesses have been raised trying to get in touch with maleness. Their charge is to build a new sort of man, non-sexist but firm in his own identity, and they work towards this in many ways. Plenty of networking news here too, especially for the Twin Cities area. (S-40t)

★★★★★

THE MEPHISTOPHELES WAR ($4 from Ogre Comics, 612 Wyndhurst Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210): A collected comic series telling of a sort of sword and sorcery battle between two neighboring kingdoms, one rather stereotypically evil, the other fairly good. The art is pretty slapdash, and the plotting has a certain D&D feel to it. (S-52)

★★★★★

MERLIN'S MUSIC BOX #10 (IRCs from Yiannis Kastanaras, Argiroupoleos 27, Athens 114 71, GREECE): An indie music zine all in Greek. Groups covered include Hawkwind, Roky Erikson, Nick Cave, Dream Syndicate, and Giant Sand, which should give you an idea of their interests. There's also a page of zine reviews and some concert notes. (A4-32t)

★★★★★

METCH #1 (25¢ & a stamp from Ogre Comics, 612 Wyndhurst Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210): This minicomic is just setting up the world for future action to take place in. It seems to be run by nasty corporations, and so far the one person—Metch—to try to do something is in rather large trouble. But there's little to judge the plot on yet. (M-8)

★★★★★

METRO RIQUET #7 (7 IRCs from François Duvivier, 18 Allee des Orgues de Flandre, (bte 394), 75019 Paris, FRANCE): An international zine of mail art, alternative music, and related fields. #7 includes interviews with Shaun Caton, ND magazine, John Wiggins, and a bunch of other folks. There's plenty of art, a pullout French translation section (the zine is in English), and a pile of reviews. It all comes bound up in string with some scary original collage work. Definitely a good value for the money and a key part of the international network. (S-80r)

★★★★★

MICKEY'S PINK BUTTHOLE #1-4 (75¢ postage from Kate, 415 N. Dunn #2, Bloomington, IN 47408): This one comes to us from the "House of Raging Women", and it's a continuing rant aimed at guys who leave the toilet seat up, rapists, and other lower forms of life. "Men are good for something, we just don't know WHAT yet." An antidote for anyone who thinks that the feminist struggle is over and done with, especially among the youth of today. Done with lots of good-natured humor. (HL-12t)

★★★★★

MIC LINE Vol. 2 #10 ($12/yr from PO Box 3886, Albuquerque, NM 87190-3886): Music news from New Mexico. This issue includes interviews with All Eyes and the Dixielandish jazz band Red Hot Peppers. They also include calendar listings, notes on a coming set of awards for state music, and opinion bits on things like club policies regarding playing for the door. (T-12)

★★★★★

MICROWAVE NEWS Vol. IX #5 ($130/3 issues from PO Box 1799, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163): A professional journal which keeps track of current medical research on bioelectromagnetics as well as the social and legal implications. #5 reports on a couple more lawsuits against radio transmitters for causing damage; though so far all of these have been settled out of court, the pressure in increasing for the legal system to define acceptable standards of non-ionizing radiation. (S-16t)

★★★★★

MIND MATTERS REVIEW 11/8/89 ($1.50 from 2040 Polk St. Box 234, San Francisco, CA 94109): There are several things tied up together in this essay. One of them is a lawsuit which editor Carrie Drake is pursuing against the city of San Francisco. Another is a defense of statements which some people, such as myself, have viewed as homophobic. Some of this in fact seems to be a response to my review of her book THE BRAIN IN THE JAR, though I can't find any clear statement of position amidst the rhetoric here. But you may want to get a copy and decide for yourself. (S-6)

★★★★★

MINI EXAMINER Vol. 11 #14 (SASE from Irene Hamlen Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313): Irene is into biorhythm analysis, with a special emphasis on computing compatibility between couples. Each issue here has some sample analyses of famous folks, and notes on how you can have the same service performed for your own situation. (S-4)

★★★★★

MINNESOTA LITERATURE Vol. 14 #10 ($8/10 issues from One Nord Cir., St. Paul, MN 55127): A newsletter for writers and publishers in the state of Minnesota. They feature reviews of current publications, a calendar of events, notes on markets and contests, and short opinion pieces. Looks like a good attempt to build a conscious community of writers. (S-8t)

★★★★★

MISC! Halloween Special ($2.20 from High School Comics, 4841 Birch Ln., Gilbert, MN 55741-9631): A fat minicomic collection with work from a bunch of people. MISC! has been around long enough to develop some in-jokes, and a lot of them come out in the lead feature, about a tolen bus. But there's plenty of more accessible work, from one-panel vampire and alien gags to gory stuff, zombies, serial killers, and other seasonal content. (M-56)

★★★★★

MISSISSIPPI MUD #34 ($5 from 1336 SE Marion St., Portland, OR 97202): A large-format literary magazine which, at least in this issue, concentrates on sex and relationships. Drawings, poetry, a photo essay and short stories all feed into consideration of people relating to people of the opposite sex. Much of the writing is rather experimental and some pieces flop, but there's enough good stuff here (notably Malcolm Scott's story "America the Beautiful") to make it worth a look. (O-44t)

★★★★★

MOLE #1 ($1.50 from PO Box 5490, Winter Park, FL 32793-5490): Music coverage—including an interview with Roger Miller that hops from page to page—and more. The more includes a page on subliminals (with examples drawn from current comic strips), a history of and experiment with the literary cut-up technique, and a few pages of notes on modern pranks. Editor J. Bagato isn't content to just report on underground culture; instead, he tries to encompass it in a broader theoretical framework. (S-32)

★★★★★

MONDO 2000 #7($$24/6 issues from PO Box 10171, Berkeley, CA 94709-5171): Formerly REALITY HACKERS and before that HIGH FRONTIERS, this one keeps getting bigger and slicker as it changes its name. It's for technophilic neophiles, people in love with cyberpunk and designer drugs, people who think computer hackers are selfless revolutionaries, people who want to plug themselves into a computer. They straightforwardly condemn any notion of "Small is Beautiful" while plugging their own vision of a techno-utopia. But most of the interviews here are fascinating: Tim Leary and William Gibson, Rudy Rucker, Robert Anton Wilson, John Lilly, and lots more. Take a look at it, but don't take it all too seriously. (S-160t)

★★★★★

THE MONITOR #16 ($15/yr from Center for Democratic Renewal, PO Box 50469, Atlanta, GA 30302): These folks are active in watching and opposing the activities of various far right groups. Their original focus was on racism, but nowadays they pay a lot of attention to bigotry directed at gays as well. This issue also features a lot of material on the rising tide of racism among America's youth. Scary. (S-8t)

★★★★★

MONSTER #20/22-23 (35¢ from Tim Paxton, MPO Box 67, Oberlin, OH 44074-0067): This little zine is dedicated to a certain type of movies: those containing monsters. #20/21/22 was a special issue, 75¢ and 12 pages long. Ithas a review of Eddie Romero films, a letter column, and a centerfold poster. #23 looks at The Ghost of Yotsuya and The Human Vapor. (D-4t)

★★★★★

THE MONTHLY MEANDER Vol. 2 #5 (Donation from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502): For the time being I'm the one facilitating this monthly bulletin of evolutionary anarchy. Mostly we just write about our own local areas and what's been going on, though there are also theoretical discussions of things like flag-burning or running a business in a society we feel apart from. A couple of stamps is plenty to get you a copy. (S-2t)

★★★★★

MOTHER SHOVEL ($4 from Steve Cerio, #44,51 MacDougal St., New York, NY 10012): A collection of graphic nightmares from an artist who apparently sees the world through some peculiar eyes indeed. Cerio's subconscious bubbles over into the harsh drawings and scrawled words on these pages, leading to a disconcertingly honest travel through his mind. The closest thing I've read to a bad acid trip. (S-28)

★★★★★

MOUNTAIN PATHWAYS Fall 1989 ($15/4 issues from PO Box 1079, Morgantown, WV 26507): "A Journal for Personal & Social Well Being in WV", this one has some aspects of a community arts paper and some of a social justice paper. Stories discuss rails to trails conversion, midwifery, and garbage dumps. There's also a "Arts & Kulchur" insert section, with short stories and poetry. Recycling, resources for the community, and healing are also touched on. (T-24t)

★★★★★

THE MOVE #2 ($1 from 11944 Sutfin Rd., Horton, MI 49246): A new music zine with an arty, comic-oriented look and layout. The main feature this time around is an interview and poster from Transfixion. They also talk to The Deadbeats and review a batch of records. (S-22)

★★★★★

MSRRT NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 #8-9 ($1 from Chris Dodge, 4645 Columbus Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55407): This one is a resource for the socially responsible librarian. Chris is with the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Minnesota Library Association, and this is a way to pass on information of interest to other members. Most of the content is short reviews—of newsletters, books, pamphlets and societies—from the world of social responsibility. (S-18)

★★★★★

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SELF-HELP PROJECT NEWSLETTER Vol. 4 #3 (SASE from PO Box 7573, Berkeley, CA 94707): The title here is pretty self-explanatory. This is for folks with MS who want to follow what's going on in their own bodies, and in the outside world in the form of treatment and support. Single-purpose networking. (S-4)

★★★★★

MURTAUGH #3 (3 stamps from 1600 Groton Dr., Hudson, OH 44236): A mix of music, baseball, and small-town news, like the excerpts from the police blotter on the back cover. Spike Vrusho and Peabody are the moving forces here, and they plaster together a welter of sports reminiscences, live show reviews, a Straw Dogs interviews, and chaotic art to form this package. A definite small-town feel pervades. (HL-20r)

★★★★★

MUSIC

THE MANDOCRUCIAN'S DIGEST #14 ($3 from PO Box 1935, Martinsburg, WV 25401): "America's only MANDOLIN publication" continues to turn out fine issues. Features include interviews, letters and reviews, but the heart of the zine is the variety of musical columns. These include words of advice and sheet music for bluegrass, Cajun, Irish and other playing styles, plus the occasional different stringed instrument. (T-16r)

★★★★★

MYTH INFORMATION #15 ($1.50 from PO Box 95, Sutter, CA 95982-0095): This is essentially the fan club organ for people interested in Robert Asprin's MYTH ADVENTURES series of books. This issue is mainly taken up with a full membership listing for the club, so members can get in touch with other local fanatics. (D-22t)

★★★★★

NAAPM NEWSLETTER #39-40 ($10/yr from 2735 Benvenue #3, Berkeley, CA 94705): The newsletter of the national Association for the Advancement of Perry Mason. They concentrate on the television show but don't neglect Erle Stanley Gardner's written works either. #39 contains an extended discussion of the last show of the TV series, as well as the usual ads, ephemera, and cable TV listings. (D-16t)

★★★★★

NAKED LADIES DANCE #2 ($1 from PO Box 20421, Providence, RI 02920): This is for those who appreciate the female body as exemplified by strippers and other public performers. This issue is dedicated to the famous Lili St. Cyr, with a bit of biography and pages of photos. Though the quality on these is not perfect, they do display her ample charms. (D-12)

★★★★★

NAKED! SCREAMING! TERROR! #1 ($2 from Timothy Paxton, MPO Box 67, Oberlin, OH 44074-0067): A new entry on the movie review scene, this is for all the things that were too gory or sleazy or just plain bad for Tim's other publications. The main feature in this premiere issue is an interview with Frank Henelotter (Brain Damage, Basket Case). They also review things like Blood Castle and The Amazing Trransplant. (D-20t)

★★★★★

NANCY'S MAGAZINE Vol. 6 #1 ($2 from Nancy Bonnell-Kangas, PO Box 02108, Columbus, OH 43202): A delightful magazine of everyday sensibilities. This issue is devoted (mostly) to bus and train travel, with fun facts about buses, travelogs, an insert map of memorable bus stops, and much more. Cute little pictures and puzzles liven up the pages. Always one of the high spots of my reading day. (HL-32)

★★★★★

NEOLOGY #67 ($2.50 from ESFCAS, PO Box 4071, PSSE, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4S8, CANADA): This SF zine has declined somewhat over the past year or so. Hardly surprising, as it is theoretically a clubzine and very few members of the club seem to be doing anything. This issue includes book and comic reviews, a longish Allen Brockman reprint. and some fiction from Sandra Espe. (S-26t)

★★★★★

NESPIT ($2/30 from PO Box 36, Libertyville, IL 60048): Actually, there may be another title to this; the cover is pretty confusing. Whatever the name, it's a collection of sketchbook (and some journal) material from the margins and the underground. Folks like Ace Backwords, M&M Jasper, and Michael Voodoo all have a hand in this mail artish collection. (S-24)

* * *

NET Vol. 1 #2 ($10/yr from Polymath Systems, PO Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701): Though this issue is 4 years old, editor Kevin Langdon says a new one is coming shortly. The purpose of the magazine is "presenting ideas to the thinking public"; in practice, this ranges from considerations of space station design to a new form of fairy chess to a new "Natural Psychological Language". Aimed at the high end of the IQ scale, but mostly not requiring specialized knowledge. (D-64r)

* * *

THE NEW CRUCIBLE Sept.-Oct. 1989 ($3 from Garry De Young, PO Box 7252, Spencer, IA 51301): "A Magazine about Man and his Environment", this consists of all manner of things which Garry has picked up along the way through life. News releases from various state and federal environmental agencies make up a large chunk of it, letting you see what the official line is on things like landfills these days. There's also short essays on social and political subjects, the occasional letter, and other reprints. (S-110t)

* * *

NEW ENGLAND GREEN ACTION #1 ($10/yr from NEGA Clearinghouse, PO Box 703, White River Junction, VT 05001): NEGA is a new organization fissioned from the New England Committees of Correspondence, the previous Greens group in the region. Apparently the disagreements were over both structure and substance, with the new group more willing to use majority if consensus cannot be achieved and committed to a more radical programme. This first issue is mostly organizational, though it does contain their platform on energy issues. (S-4t)

* * *

NEW FORCES Vol. 1 #5-6 ($5/yr from Tim Mayer, 8816 Manchester Rd. #167, St. Louis, MO 63144): This one doesn't announce any purpose, but global geopolitics seems to be the area of interest. The first article in #5 discusses the situation in Lebanon, the second looks at Carlos Menem, and the third reviews a futuristic political thriller. #6 includes more on Lebanon and some anti-abortion satire. (S-3)

* * *

NEW GROUND Vol. 3 #4-5 ($7.50/yr from Chicago DSA, 1608 N. Milwaukee #403, Chicago, IL 60647): The newsletter of the Chicago-area branch of the Democratic Socialists of America. It's primarily concerned with things that the DSAers have been up to, or that they intend to be up to in the future. These two issues include editor J. Hughes' summer European travelog and some tributes to Michael Harrington. (S-10t)

* * *

NEW OPTIONS #61-62 ($2 from PO Box 19324, Washington, DC 20036): Mark Satin's personal journey through new ideas in the political world continues, and his sharing with his readers is still effective. #61 looks at some new paradigms for conflict resolution, or at least communication, and has a longer than usual letter column. #62 has feedback on the Greens conference and a look at the benefits of drug decriminalization. (S-8t)

* * *

NEW PAGES #14 ($3 from PO Box 438, Grand Blanc, MI 48439): A selection of "Alternatives in Print and Media" aimed at libraries, independent bookstores, and similar institutions. The meat here is the reviews of new books and periodicals, but there's much more: interviews with Noam Chomsky, Dave Marsh, and Alexander Cockburn in this issue, plus a special section on what the comics are up to these days, for example. (S-86t)

* * *

NEW PLAYS & PLAYWRIGHTS Vol. III #3 ($1 (?) from PO Box 14524, Chicago, IL 60614): A publication for the Chicago-area theatrical community. They focus specifically on the playwrights, with interviews and notes on things that work in the profession. There are notes on summer theater festivals and reminiscences from those who have worked behind the scenes. I don't know what the other publications in the field are like, but this one is downright friendly. (S-32t)

* * *

NEWS & LETTERS Vol. 34 #8-9 ($2.50/yr from 59 E. Van Buren #707, Chicago, IL 60605): The prime—indeed, the only, so far as I know—journal of Marxist Humanism, a theory which returns to the early Marx and then attempts to modernize it. They're very intellectual Marxists, and opposed to the systems in both the West and the East at this time. They print a mix of philosophy and world news, with their analyses of what's really going on, and an emphasis on labor and minority struggles. (T-12t)

* * *

NEWS AND NOTES FROM ALL OVER Fall 1989 (50¢ from SET, PO Box 10491, Oakland, CA 94610-0491): That's the Society for the Eradication of Television, and this is their collection of anti-television polemics and points. They reprint whatever material they can find on the subject of the low points of TV, and also try to explain how it's possible to live without one. (L-6t)

* * *

THE NEW SETTLER INTERVIEW #45 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 730, Willits, CA 95490): Pleasant talks with interesting people from Northern California and roundabouts. #45 includes a couple of people fighting to save old growth trees, feminist Earth Firster Sequoia (a fascinating and unique person), and dowser Charlie Acker, as well as author Mary Pjerrou. Editor Beth Bosk constantly comes up with a good mix and good questions and makes me wish I was living there instead of here, so strongly does she project a sense of community. (S-56t)

* * *

NEWSLETTER WITH NO NAME Vol. 2 #3 ($6/yr from Rosemary K. West, PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346): A non-MENSA place for folks with a reasonable chunk of smarts to hang around and discuss things. The biggest piece of this issue is given over to John R. Berger's explanation of "The Way Things Are", in which he tries to determine what a law really is and which ones we know. Other topics include assault rifles, the beginning of time, and money-grubbing high-IQ societies. (S-15)

* * *

NEWS OF NORWAY Vol. 46 #8 (On Request from Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2720-34th St. NW, Washington, DC 20008): This is essentially PR from Norway, designed (apparently) to keep Norwegian-Americans informed as to what's up back home. At the moment, it appears to be a new coalition government, Balans seats in the subways, and relatively cheap skiing holidays. No doubt there are similar publications for any country you care to name. (S-8t)

* * *

NEW UNIONIST #147-148 ($3/10 issues from 621 W. Lake St. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55408): The regular paper of the New Union Party, one of the major proponents of syndicalism in the US: the idea that workers from all industries should organize into one big union, rise up, and smite the bosses. They patiently explain this idea over and over again, apparently hoping to drum some sense into the working class. Good luck. (T-4t)

* * *

A NEW WORLD RISING #11 (Donation from Box 33, 77 Ives, Providence, RI 02906): A tabloid stew of notes and letters from all sorts of folks who want to make the world a better place. Based loosely in the Deadhead scene, there are people on a variety of paths here, but the unifying factor is a belief that we can change the world. Collages layouts and positive energy combine. (T-8r)

* * *

THE NEW YORK FORTEAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER #10 ($6/yr from John Keel, PO Box 20024, New York, NY 10025-1510): This one is mostly to keep Forteans in New York in touch with each other. The NYFS appears to be most active in running a speaker series, and this details those who have talked in the past with some hints of what they said. Whitley Streiber leads off this issue. For $1, they'll send you Keel's "The 'Flap' Phenomenon in the United States", a vintage-1969 16-page statistical analysis of the patterns in UFO reports. (S-6t)

* * *

NICE DAY FOR A FUNERAL #1 (1 stamp from Nonoxynol-9, PO Box 7792, Rego Park, NY 11374): This one is aimed at folks who are fascinated with death, or at least with the trappings of death. It's a collage made up mostly of excerpts from product catalogs aimed at funeral directors, plus one or two other cartoons and clippings. (D-8)

* * *

THE NICE PAPER Vol. 1 #1 ($1 (?) from 925 Reservoir Ave., Cranston, RI 02910): A new community paper for the Providence area, with most of its attention on music. The major think piece is an analysis of the local club scene and its tendrils. There's also a chat with Rash of Stabbings and the expected list of who's where when. (T-16t)

* * *

NIEKAS #40 ($15/4 issues from RFD 2, Box 63, Center Harbor, NH 03226-9729): This is another special issue of this long-running and impressive zine of science fiction criticism. This time it's devoted to Andre Norton. Since I have, to the best of my recollection, read precisely one Norton book, I am not the best person to critique this. However, with contributions from a dozen important names in the field, it looks pretty juicy, as well as decidedly complimentary. (S-52t)

* * *

NIGHT ACTS Aug.-Sept. 1989 ($2 (?) from Flamingo Publishing, 2201 Franklin Rd., Roanoke, VA 24014): There are plenty of free monthly entertainment magazines around, most of them sporting the same tabloid look as all the others. This newcomer to the field, devoted to the Southwest Virginia scene, has an attractive slick format instead. Pages are divided between events, reviews, and ritzy

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fashion photos, which also sets them apart. Can they make it? Maybe so; the idea looks interesting. (S-40t)

★★★★★

THE NOCTURNAL LYRIC #12 ($1.25 from PO Box 2602, Pasadena, CA 91102-2602): A small and friendly litmag that's been growing steadily. They feature a wide mix of very short stories, with a lot of SF in this issue. Some of it is pretty hackneyed, but there are definitely gems here, including Barry Barringer's "Restorative". They also feature short poetry and somewhat psychedelic artwork. (D-24r)

★★★★★

NOCTURNE #2 ($6 from PO Box 1715, Chicago, IL 60690): There's so much packed into this "magazine of nightmares" that it is t time difficult to tell where one shudder leaves off and another beings. Among the standouts: "Build it Up With Blood and Bone", by Patricia Russo, which builds most prosaically towards an unexpected ending, and "Ultima Thule", a new Grabinski story translated by Miroslaw Lipinski. There are original woodcuts and paintings, short poetry, excerpts from letters, reviews...all add up to produce a graveyard atmosphere, a place where the touch of worms on the tongue is not only desired but expected. (S-52t)

★★★★★

THE NOISE #87-89 ($10/yr from Timothy Maxwell, 74 Jamaica St., J.P., Boston, MA 02130): The essential guide to what's happening on the Boston music scene. They range from straightforward coverage of bands like A Scanner Darkly and Laughing Academy (both in #87) to features like the centerfold of scenester tattoos in the same issue. #88 has more tattoos and an interview with the QUIMBY staff which makes their mag a bit more comprehensible. Hell Toupee and Mindgrinder get some ink in #89. There's always a fun gossip and cool Fitz cartoons as well. (S-24)

★★★★★

NOLO NEWS Vol. 9 #3 ($9/yr from Nolo Press, 950 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94710): The folks at Nolo Press promote "Access to law" for everyone, with a series of helpful (especially if you live in California) books. They also put out this paper to discuss more general topics. The main thrust in this issue is an examination of bankruptcy as an alternative, but there are also pieces on copyright and lawyer jokes, plus more. (T-20t)

★★★★★

NOMOS Vol. 7 #1 ($4.50 from 9857 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60643): A Libertarian journal which appears to be on the upswing towards increased feistiness. Sam Konkin leads off this issue with a spirited defense of smokers as an oppressed minority; later on, Walter Block gives a glowing review to an anti-feminist book. In between, we get excerpts from other movement periodicals, an examination of game theory and property rights, and more. (S-28t)

★★★★★

NOOK NEWS Vol. 5 #3 ($2 from The Writer's Nook Press, 10957 Chardon Rd., Chardon, OH 44024): A collection of new sand hints for the writer. Editor Eugene Ortiz has put together a batch of market news, conference updates, and hints on things like organization and grammar in an attractive desktop published format. For the budding freelancer, there are plenty of ideas on new ways to make money; even the experienced author may pick up a trick or two. (S-12t)

★★★★★

NO OTHER WAY #2 (SASE from PO Box 2214, Fair Oaks, CA 95628): A voice of Christian argument within the punk community, presented in a punk zine fashion. The editor offers some arguments for faith and tries to confront the most common ways people shrug them off. (O-2r)

★★★★★

NORTHERN SUN NEWS Vol. 12 #6-8 ($$10/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): A community paper which has grown from anti-nuclear activism (which they're still involved in) to a wide range of social justice and peace issues. #7, for example, discusses the toxic waste costs of paper recycling as it is practiced in their area. There's also animal rights, Central America, and some informative discussion of the '89 anarchist gathering—and, of course, nuclear news. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE NOSE #5 ($3 from Ethan Pettit, 209 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211): New horizons in fanzine publishing: this issue of NOSE is a blueprint—literally—on a huge sheet of paper. The contents deal with art and society, with a focus on displaying works. Mentions are made of the last two shows at Minor Injury Gallery, as well as flagburning, cyberpunk, and other unlikely associations. A definite conversation piece for your walls. (O-1)

★★★★★

THE NOTE Vol. 4 #3-4 ($12/95/12 issues from 735 1/2 New Hampshire St., Lawrence, KS 66044): Midwest music coverage with a Kansas club scene emphasis. With a page each on places like Wichita, Lawrence, and Kansas City, they can be a big help if you're ever stranded in that state. The feature writing has steadily improved over the last several years as well. There's a nice cover story about the Embarrassment on #4. (T-20t)

★★★★★

NOTEBOOK/CUADERNO: A LITERARY JOURNAL Vol. 5 #2 ($6.75 from Esoterica Press, PO Box 170, Barstow, CA 92312-0170): This is the annual "Raza Cosmica Issue" of this litmag, concentrating on Chicano writing (and including, in this case, a chapbook of poetry and non-fiction from Carmen M. Pursifull). Much of the stuff here has an ethnic flavor, though other parts are pretty mainstream except for their authors. Glenn Sheldon provides a guest review section as well. (D-102)

★★★★★

NOTES FROM OBLIVION #23 ($1 (?) from Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Ln., Libertyville, IL 60048-3733): This one starts by recapping Jay's continuing and mysterious medical problems, but rather than dwell on them, it moves into other things. This includes reviews of recent additions to the Star Trek canon and some SubGenial comics. (S-6)

★★★★★

NOTES FROM THE DUMP Vol. 4 #57 ($24/yr from Terry Ward. PO Box 39, Acworth, NH 03601): Back after a long absence this summer and as ruminatory as ever. Terry works at the dump (more formally, the Acworth/Langdon Transfer Center) and this apparently gives him plenty of time to think about the rise of crime, the war on drugs, and his own checkered history. Every once in a while he puts out six pages of such thoughts and mails it off. (S-6)

★★★★★

NOTHING #3 (2 stamps from PO Box 2487, Bellingham, WA 98227): A little music zine that's focused no garage band and other local activity. There's a big section in this issue focused on other Bellingham area zines, from BACKLASH to VICIOUS HIPPIES FROM PANDA HELL. Interviews include Snakepit and Mecca Normal, as well as the guy who runs Ensign Video. And there are more obscure references to Dust Blair sprinkled throughout, together with a pile of record reviews. (D-40r)

★★★★★

NOVA EXPRESS Vol. 2 #4 ($3 from PO Box 27231, Austin, TX 78755-2231):A science fiction zine with a very respectable-looking format. Inside this issue there's a long interview with John Kessel (concluding with a bibliography of his published works), some book reviews, and a couple of short stories. They even manage pretentious literary analysis in "Wastelandian Symbolism in Rory Harper's *Petrogypsies*". (S-24t)

★★★★★

NOW WHAT Vol. 2 #2 ($1 CASH/MO from 201 Evergreen St. #2-2A, Vestal, NY 13850-2761): Music coverage that looks good, feels good, gives good review. They hit up a lot of the usual bands, but being somewhat removed from the center of action they sometimes come up with strange ways of looking at things. Interviews with Adrian Belew, Big Stick, Band of Susans and Yo La Tengo grace this issue. There's also a guide to some of the best guitar-laden garage bands and a few pages of book & zine reviews. (S-48t)

★★★★★

NUIT-ISIS Vol. 1 #6 ($12 from Mandrake, PO Box 250, Oxford, OX1 1AP, UK): A "Journal of the Nu Equinox" in the Thelemic tradition. This issue contains a shot at some history of the OTO in the postwar period (which the editors warn will be controversial), an interpretation of one of Crowley's riddles from THE BOOK OF THE LAW, and various reviews. Shantidevinath 93 explains why she prefers working in a magickal system to a Wiccan one, and there's a TOPY text on "Occulture". Nice design and photos too. (A4-32t)

★★★★★

THE OBLIGATOR Vol. II #5 ($1 from PO box 915, Muskegon, MI 49443-0915): A Christian journal of music and discipleship. They review major concerts and new albums, but they also go a step beyond other Christian music zines by giving advice on being a better Christian and spreading the good word. There's also articles on controversial topics like abortion. A well-done package. (S-12r)

★★★★★

THE ODINIST $123 ($8/8 issues from PO Box 1647, Crystal River, FL 32629): A publication for those searching for a resurgence of the old Northern European religions. They publish mostly philosophical and historical analyses, rather than movement news. This issue is mostly taken up by an attempt to synthesize Odinism with existentialism. (S-10)

★★★★★

ODD #2 (The Usual or stamps from David R. Haugh, 556 N. 3rd St., Woodburn, OR 97071): A stfnal personalzine, wherein David talks about running, comics and UFOs, for the most part. There's also a bit of a letter column (how much do you expect from only one issue?) Nice relaxed and thoughtful tone to it all. (S-10)

★★★★★

OFFICE NUMBER ONE Vol. 26,457 #689 ($5.43/4 issues from 1709 San Antonio St., Austin, TX 78701): If any publication here deserves the label "idiosyncratic", this is it. ONO prints news—from other dimensions of reality, alternate earths, and worlds not covered in your morning paper. Some of it seems to be social satire, some is simply bizarre maunderings. The best parts remind me of the sort of thing Mark Twain wrote when he wanted to upset people. (HL-12)

★★★★★

OFF THE WALL #1 (SASE (?) from 960 SW Jefferson Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333): A collection of clippings from newspapers and other source, juxtaposed to highlight their strangeness. "I.V. Club Adds Hard Liquor", reads one headline, while an ad offers dish soap in "Assorted flavors". The decline and fall of the major media. (O-1)

★★★★★

O FORTUNA! Dream Issue (£6/yr from BCM Akademia, London, WC1N 3XX, UK): I don't see any mention of an overseas price in this somewhat eclectic zine of magic and paganism. While the focus of this issue is on dreams, their use and interpretation, they do work other things in. These include part of a continuing series on the Cabala, a batch of book reviews, and an interview with musician Nigel Shaw. Includes lots of contact addresses for other publications. (A5-28r)

★★★★★

OHIO WRITER Vol. III #6 ($2 from PO Box 770464, Cleveland, OH 44107): A magazine aimed at writers in Ohio. They feature news and a calendar of the area, plus a listing of books relating to their theme. There's also a sizable section of reviews, of these books and others on how to write. Finally, they interview various Ohio writers on their life and craft. (S-16t)

★★★★★

THE OKLAHOMA CAUCUS Summer 1989 ($1 (?) from LP of Oklahoma, PO Box 54703, Tulsa, OK 74155-9990): A newsletter from the Libertarian Party of Oklahoma. A lot of this is pretty well local news: "Seven Libertarians Present at Abortion Rights Rally", that sort of thing. There's also some notes from the recent LP national convention, from the person who lost the race for the chair. (S-6)

★★★★★

OLD CAR AUCTION RESULTS QUARTERLY Winter 1989 ($21.95/4 issues from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54945): This one is pretty straightforward. It lists the cars that come up for sale at major auctions around the country, the top bid, their condition, and whether or not they were sold. So, for example, a 1983 Ferrari Boxer 2 door hard top coupe recently went for $270,000. Aimed at the collector market, it also lists forthcoming auctions and has ads from insurance companies and appraiser specializing in this sort of car. (D-162t)

★★★★★

OPEN SEASON #7 ($2.65 from Strawberry Jam, PO Box 40430, Berkeley, CA 94704-4430): Arather curious comic book. The main feature is Jim Bricker's "Open Season", a sort of modern soap opera. But I liked the backup better—Bricker and Gray's "Satan Cruised the Boardwalk", describing a golf game and conversation with the Devil. This isn't a flashy book, but it does feature good storytelling and art, and what more could a reader want? (S-32t)

★★★★★

OPTION #29 ($15/6 issues from 2345 Westwood Blvd. #2, Los Angeles, CA 90064): As always, a mammoth slice through the world of music, not just the current critical faves (though some big names do show up) but the obscure and the arty as well. Editor Richie Unterberger takes another look at the death of the LP in this issue, and there's advice on equipping a MIDI studio. On the musical side, try Tall Drawfs, Ali Farka Toure, Heiner Goebbels and Exene Cervenka on for size. (S-146t)

★★★★★

THE ORACLE #6 ($5/4 issues from R.K. West Consulting, PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346): This newsletter, aimed at users of shareware on IBM-compatible systems, is getting better rapidly. This issue opens with a discussion of viruses and virus-protection software, together with other hints about what to do to protect yourself. The BACKUP and RESTORE commands are discussed at length. There's also news on present and future shareware releases from this company. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE ORWELLIAN TIMES #24($1 or so from PO Box 22431, St. Louis, MO 63126): A newsletter that edges over towards the conspiratorial end of things from time to time in their distrust for the modern system of big government. Their primary concern is with our banking and monetary system. Worth reading for caustic comments on other conservative hobbyhorses which editor Winston Smith sees as smokescreens or non-issues. (S-5)

★★★★★

OTHERREALMS #25 ($$2.85 from 35111-F Newark Blvd. #255, Newark, CA 94560): A magazine of reviews of science fiction, fantasy and horror books, mainly fro the major publishers but including some small press material. Editor Chuq von Rospach and his crew are generally of the same opinion as I am—it's easier to write reviews than criticism, and it's good to get a lot of stuff in. Does a good job of putting various books in the context of what's going on in the field. (S-60t)

★★★★★

OUR GENERATION Vol. 20 #2 ($7.95 from 3981 boulevard St.-Laurent #444, Montreal, Quebec, H2W 1Y5, CANADA): A journal of anarchist thought and reviews firmly in the historical mainstream of the movement. This issue has a Social Ecological critique of Neo-Conservativism—but it also has a reprint of Kropotkin's classic "What is Anarchism?" East Germany now and France 200 years ago also come up. (D-114t)

★★★★★

OUTER SHELL #48-49 (SASE from PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): A monthly sheet of music news and humor. The major chunk of #48 is given over to an interview with Dr. Detroit, with some sea turtle news tucked away in the corners. #49 reports some difficulties which OS has had in trying to advertise for more staff in another local music mag which apparently viewed them as unwanted competition. (S-2r)

★★★★★

OUT/LOOK #5-6 ($21/yr from 2940 16th St. #319, San Francisco, CA 94103): An ambitious and attractive "National Lesbian & Gay Quarterly" which tackles at length issues, culture, and more. #5 looks at the effect of AIDS on the women's community and asks half a dozen leaders to reflect on the legacy of the Stonewall riots. #6 investigates gay marriage, asks if 12-step incest programs are a fad, and interviews Paul Lynde. Poetry, short stories and good-looking graphics keep it an interesting read. Looks like a winner. (S-88t)

★★★★★

OUT OF ORDER #1-5 (Donation from Packrat Press, PO box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307): Kerry Thornley is back with more words of wisdom and confusion from the Discordian society. Here he explains the official stand on everything from cabbages to good and evil (actually those two are subtly intertwined). He also gives a few contact addresses for other Discordians. Perhaps we will see a resurgence of OM. (D-4)

★★★★★

OUTRAGED #1 (90¢ from Edward Y., 18721 Stare St., Northridge, CA 91324): A small music zine, new on the scene, that combines vegetarianism with the melodic coverage. They're not real pushy about it, just asking people to think. Interviews with Scared Straight and Moshed Potatoes take up most of the zine, along with some gruesome art. (S-12)

★★★★★

OVO #7 ($5 Postal MO from PO Box 23061, Knoxville, TN 37933-1061): After a year or so away this one is back with a special issue on information. This includes pieces on the immorality of copyrights, guerilla video showings, Agressive Christianity, the Dreamachine, and more. Hakim Bey contributes a "Ringing Denunciation of Surrealism", while Kerry Thornley has an entire notebook reproduced. I've even got a few pages here myself. Collage and muzak fill up the nooks and crannies, while the marginals take the bulk of the pages. (S-84)

★★★★★

PAGAN APA #46 ($2 or so from Rita Prince Winston, 548-3 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291-4282): There's quite a number of interesting people writing in this forum for pagans (and kindred spirits) these days. Ritual, the relations of pagans to the wider world, religion in general, social change, and just plain chatting are among the topics. Looking for someone new to run the thing, but otherwise in good shape. (S-66)

★★★★★

PAGAN FREE PRESS #7 ($2 from Victor Brotte, PO Box 55223, Tulsa, OK 74155): A collection of articles from readers. This issue is devoted to "Magickal Tools", with a column of Q&A plus some instructions on making a few of them—most prominently, wands and rattles. There are also some stories of improvised tool use. (D-28r)

★★★★★

PAGANS FOR PEACE NEWSLETTER Vol. 4 #2 ($15/13 issues from PO Box 86134, North Vancouver, BC, V7L 4J5, CANADA): A pagan journal with political as well as thealogical stands—they believe in working hard on behalf of all sorts of good causes. The main thrust of the newsletter is networking, with a list of contacts in every issue. #2 is heavy on book and zine reviews as well. (S-8r)

★★★★★

THE PAN-AMERICAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION NEWS #26 ($5/5 issues from PO Box 244, Nocatee, FL 33864): A friendly bunch dedicated to preserving Native American traditions. They're not especially picky about membership; if you even suspect Indian ancestry you're welcome to join. Their major areas of concentration are on genealogical research and on current festivals and other happenings. (T-16)

★★★★★

PANDORA #24 ($4 from 2844 Grayson, Ferndale, MI 48220): A litmag with a speculative fiction slant. This issue opens with a gem, T. Jackson King's "Winnowing the Chaff"—a bit rough around the edges, but possessed of a wideranging vision that reminds me of the best galactic epics of the past. Sandra Lindow's poem "The Arctic Edge" bought a chuckle forth as well. Now with smaller (but still very legible) print and hence more contents than ever. (D-48r)

★★★★★

PAPER RADIO #7 ($2.50 from Neil S. Kvern, PO Box 85302, Seattle, WA 98145-1302): This one stands at the intersection of several genres: poetry, litmags, mail art and posterism, for a few. A looseleaf collection that can be rearranged a myriad ways, PR features graphics from Mike Miskowski and Phleghm Pets, short stories from Luke McGuff and D. Castleman, poetry from John Bennett and Cheryl Townsend—and that's just scratching the surface. A good slice through current modern works. (S-40t or so)

★★★★★

PAPER TOADSTOOL #1 (50¢ from 4946 W. Pnt. Way, WVC, UT 84120): Sort of a blend of a litmag and a music zine. There's interviews here with Orifice and Dirt Fishermen, to establish the music side. But there's also a batch of cool underground art (lots of stuff from Carrie, for example) and poetry and short stories. They also find room for opinion pieces; in this issue, Lars looks at the war on drugs. (D_28r)

★★★★★

PARALLELOGRAMME Vol. 15 #2 ($20/yr *IMO ONLY* from 183 Bathurst St., Main Floor, Toronto, ONT M5T 9Z9, CANADA): "Contemporary Canadian Arts News" in a big slick package. The bulk of this is listings of what's going on and planned at galleries all across Canada, but they also have some feature articles. This time they focus in on AIDS and how it's been conceptualized. Entirely English/French bilingual. (S-104t)

★★★★★

PARANOIS FREE PRESS #9 ($1 (?) from Von K. Lechner, 115 Coolidge Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108): A journal of opinions and artwork. Von comments on the topics of the day, from censorship (Ayatollahs and flag-burning both come up in this issue) to drug use. There's also a nice selection of collages and mail art submissions here. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE PATRIOT REVIEW Vol. IV #4 ($1.75 from PO Box 905, Sandy, OR 97055): A hardcore conservative publication mostly dedicated to fighting the IRS through any legal means necessary. They say they've even won some cases, and will sell you various literature on doing the same. There's also articles on other government abuses and the fallacies of evolutionary theory, as well as stuff like "Zionism and Nazism: Startling Parallels" which some will find offensive. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE PEACEMAKER Vol. 42 #5-6 (Donation from PO Box 627, Garberville, CA 95440): This is frontline news from the movement to resist the war machine in this country. The people who write for **THE PEACEMAKER** have chosen lives of simplicity, working towards a sane economics, and refuse to participate, through conscription or taxation, in funding the Pentagon. As a result a number of them are in jail, but others are out, serving notice on the rest of us that society's conscience is not yet completely erased. Inspirational and challenging. (T-8t)

★★★★★

PEACEWORK #190-191 ($8/yr from AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140): This spirited little publication is creeping up on 200 issues with no sign of faltering. Published by the American Friends Service Committee, it puts out brief articles on peace and social justice actions and situations around the world, from North Korea to Central America to the USSR. Each issue also includes several pages of announcements and contact addresses, plus more lighthearted features such as the list of recommended songs for demonstrators in this issue. (S-16t)

★★★★★

PENGUIN DIP #28-29 ($15/10 issues from Stephen H. Dorneman, 94 Eastern Ave. #1, Malden, MA 02148): A combination SF and Diplomacy zine, with Stephen running various games in the back and chatting about science fiction and related topics (or unrelated ones like nostalgia) in the front. #28 has his Worldcon report (#29 balances this out with a Dipcon report) and news of a possible new game start. Debate over the best songs/movies/books of all time continue in the letter column. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE PENUMBRA #1 (1 stamp from Porcine Software, PO Box 20625, New York, NY 10009): A parody of **THE SHADOW**, which in turn grew out of the Tompkins Square Riots in New York as a voice of opposition to the system. Well,, these folks are another voice of opposition, but they take a different tack: articles on what Yuppies eat, quotes from stupid fascist columnists, and pictures with suitably deranged captions abound. Less serious but a lot more amusing, and it does an adequate job of making the forces of lawnorder look stupid. (T-8t)

★★★★★

PEOPLE'S REPORTER ($30/yr from 66, Nandidurg Extension, (Fourth Road), Bangalore-560 046, INDIA): A "forum for the free exchange of ideas in the pursuit of a just and humane society", concentrating on current issues in India. This leads to some things which seem strange from our point of view, for instance reporting on dowry prohibitions and political cartoons for which we lack the referent. Overall, this seems carefully written and dedicated to human rights. (T-8t)

★★★★★

PEPTALK Vol. 6 #3 ($9/4 issues from PEP, PO Box 5247, Eugene, OR 97405): This is *the* place to go for information on polyfidelity, which it may be convenient (though not precisely correct) to think of as a closed group marriage. The people writing here are frank about their lifestyle and the advantages it offers, and anxious to welcome new people into it. I must admit that what they write is inspiring and refreshing. If you're wondering what it's all about, get in touch with them. (S-8t)

★★★★★

PERIPHERAL VISIONS #1 (The Usual from PO Box 15031, Gainesville, FL 32604-5031): A first-time ever SF zine from Rob Sommers, part of the growing number of fans from Gainesville to be publishing. Much of this issue is filled with Worldcon recollections, by the editor and by Hawk. Rob also looks over some of the summer's big movies and prints a short story from Eddie Roberts. (S-14)

★★★★★

PETA NEWS Vol. 4 #5-6 (Donation from PO Box 42516, Washington, DC 20015-0516: The newsletter of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, perhaps the most hardcore animal rights group in the country. They spearheaded the campaign to get Avon to stop animal testing, and are still going after the fur industry with every propaganda weapon they have. Plenty of action ideas in every issue, as well as reports on victories and defeats. (S-16t)

★★★★★

PFUI! #5-6 ($2 for #5 or $1.50 for #6 from Paul Turney, 21 Cotton St., Leominster, MA 01453): This one has ties to the science fiction community—reportage from the recent Worldcon fills many of the pages of #5—but also wider horizons. In its purest form it is a place for personal writing and wondering about life by the editor and others. There are also some short stories and what I would call a Zen comic strip in #5. #6 ranges from folk concerts to worthwhile books. (D-48)

★★★★★

PHOTOSTATIC #38 ($8/6 issues from 911 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245): Since this zine is suspending publication after #39 to participate in the Art Strike, subs will include past issues instead of future ones. Editor Lloyd Dunn seems determined to go out in a welter of analysis and reviewing, with most of the contents of this issue being text rather than the photocopy art of earlier versions. Plagiarism, the art strike, præcisio and the origins of Neoism are a few of the concerns here. (HL-48t)

★★★★★

THE PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY REPORT Vol. 23 #2 (50¢ from PO Box 618, Alton, IL 62002): The woman who may well be America's leading anti-feminist is still at it. This issue is an essay titled "The Feminization of the American Military". Schlafly was apparently appalled by the appointment of a woman to head the cadet corps at West Point, and uses this as a springboard to condemn the very idea of women in the military, let alone as combat troops. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE PITBULL LETTERS #0-1 ($1.25 from Hammer Press, 513 Wilshire Blvd. #304, Santa Monica, CA 90401): A rather difficult to penetrate comic book; apparently some of the caricatures here represent politicians on the Los Angeles scene. Gang problems, death, and politics are the main subject here, all executed with cynicism and grace. (D-12)

★★★★★

PKDS #21 ($6/yr from PO Box 611, Glen Ellen, CA 95442): Another special issue of the Philip K. Dick Society Newsletter. This one is a comparison of **SOLAR LOTTERY** and **WORLD OF CHANCE**, respectively the American and British editings of a longer Dick manuscript, **QUIZMASTER TAKE ALL**. Probably of interest to hard-core Dick fans only. (D-38t)

★★★★★

PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER #251 ($1.50 from Jude Grant, 1241 W. 10th St., Erie, PA 16502): A collection of off-the-wall comics and stories. There's some crazy experimental writing from Edward Mycue, comics concentrating on sexual deviations, and top ten lists from the sublime to the sexist. Generally seems to be a search for new frontiers to print, wandering back to straight stories now and then. (S-32)

★★★★★

POINTS OF LIGHT Vol. II #8 (SASE from Temple of the Eternal Light, 928 E. Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11230-2104): A small pagan newsletter that also offers various items for sale ("Genuine Thai Pagan Fertility Symbols" in #8, for example). They report on activities in the NYC area and print articles on basics, as with Karen DePolito's words on Samhain in this issue. (L-2)

★★★★★

POLITICAL ECONOMY #50-51 ($5/6 issues from Dave Chapman, PO Box 9, Forestville, CA 95436): This is a place for Dave to write essays about current events. He's not afraid to go out on a limb with his predictions, which makes for fun reading. #50 is about liberal Republicans, and whether the Democrats can recapture the center. #51 looks at the drug war, with some thoughts on possible escalation by the cocaine cartels. (S-2)

★★★★★

THE POPE #4 ($4.50 from PO Box 146882, Chicago, IL 60614): The cover says that price includes a Breaking Circus 7", but they didn't send me one so I can't tell you how it is. The Breaking Circus interview, though, is fine, as are the ones with Repulse Kava, Flophouse, and Bastards. A ton of record and tape reviews provides a quick retrospective of the indie music scene in the year or so since the last issue. (S-72t)

★★★★★

THE POPE AND THE PYTHON (25¢ from Jason Whitley, 579 Pulaski St., Athens, GA 30601): There is a Pope in this minicomic, and also a python. They get together in a tropical jungle/rain forest setting, together with some natives. That's about it. Nice art. (M-8)

★★★★★

POOR ROBERT'S ALMANAC #4 ($1.50 from PRA Publications, 461 N. 800 East, Provo, UT 84606): A collection of social and political commentary from a non-dogmatic leftist point of view. The main features in this issue are a basic introduction to anarcha-feminism, an examination of sexist language and its effects and a look at the drug-like effects of television. There are also som fascinating translations from little-known Soviet writer Danūl Harms. (S-18t)

★★★★★

POPPIN' ZITS LITE #7 (50¢ from Jerod Pore, 1800 Market St. #141, San Francisco, CA 94102): This is the pre-words stage of Jerod's zine POPPIN' ZITS. It's made up of collages of politics, women (clothed and otherwise), miocrochips, news stories, and other detritus of the mass and specialty medias. (S-10)

★★★★★

POPWATCH #1 ($1.50 (?) from PO Box 440215, Somerville, MA 02144): A new music zine from the Boston area, though they would like to branch out beyond local music. There's a lot packed in here, including interviews with Christmas, Blood Oranges, and the Lemonheads. There's also some reviews (of course), notes on record shopping, and an article on the Bop cassette label. (S-28t)

★★★★★

POSITIVE DISLIKE #4 ($2 from Mike Dislike, 79 Brook Green, Hammersmith, London W6 7BE, ENGLAND): A music zine that comes out of the straightedge scene, although the editor says they will be downplaying that and featuring more literary material in the future. This issue has interviews with bands including Thought Police and Long Cold Stare, as well as pages on vegetarianism and the ideas behind straightedge. Quite thoughtful and open. (A5-48r)

★★★★★

POSITIVELY ENTERTAINMENT & DINING Vol. 13 #9-10 ($15/yr from Crooked Arrow Publishing Co., PO Box 16009, Portland, OR 97216): Where to go and what to do while you're in the Portland area. They make space for all sorts of music and places to go, from rock to C&W to dance-oriented watering spots. Lots of ads and schedules will give you plenty of choices. (T-12t)

Eddy displays new persona
Installation scheduled for next month
DON BAKER

★★★★★

THE POSNERIAN TIMES Vol. 1 #1 (SASE (?) from Jerry D. Posner, PO Box 244, West Stockbridge, MA 01266): This is essentially the prospectus for a new zine to be dedicated to the power of positive thinking as a means of reality creation. Jerry presents a bunch of affirmations for a better life and methods of taming the negative ego and guilt. He invites readers to send in their own tips on how to live a happier and funner life. (S-4)

★★★★★

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 7 #2 ($10/6 issues from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): These folks take "a utilitarian approach" to the idea of freedom in the libertarian tradition. The zine consists of a mix of editorial and think pieces, tackling issues like airline regulation, education, and public funding for art. They're not opposed to printing debates, but on the whole they go for things which make good arguments for more freedom, widely conceived. Occasionally inspirational, always thought-provoking. (S-16t)

★★★★★

THE PRAIRIE RAMBLER #145-147 (Sample free from PO Box 505, Claremont, CA 91711-0505): A wonderful selection of quotes and quips from ages past, together with occasional commentary from editor Jerry B. There's always something here to give one pause, and if you're looking for hooks to prod you into writing there's no better source. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE PRESERVATION OF OBSCURITY #2 ($2.75 from Lump of Squid, Unit 100, 365 Sorauren, Toronto, ONT, M6R 2G5, CANADA): An exceedingly odd comic, featuring a couple of lost gods who end up in a bizarre and seedy nightclub with some sort of crook on the lam. There's plenty of plot here, and sleazeballs galore, but this reader for one still doesn't know what the heck is going on. (S-40)

★★★★★

PRISON NEWS SERVICE #20 (Donation fromPSC Publishers, PO Box 5052, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT, M5W 1W4, CANADA): News from behind the bars around the world, with some concentration on the US and Canada. There's always an update on conditions at USP Marion, as well as notes on trials and hassles in other places. #20 has a good deal of info about AIDS safety in prison. (HL-16t)

★★★★★

PROFESSOR GRADY'S AMAZING SIGHTS OF THE EARTH ($2 from Monster Truck Cartoons, 374 Pimlico Rd., Greenville, SC 29607): Professor Grady shows off, in single panel cartoons, such sights as the Leaning Tower of Pizza and the Eiffer Towel. Sort of a Far Side-ish tour of famous sites. Comes with a hand-colored cover. (HL-6)

★★★★★

THE PROGRESSIVE PRAGMATIST Vol. IV #3 ($12/8 issues from Nicholas J. Nigro, Jr., 3214 Tibbett Ave., Bronx, NY 10463): Political criticism from a common sense stance, in the form of short essays. In this issue, President Bush's "War" on drugs gets a failing grade, the New York mayoral campaign comes in for a few pages, and Teddy Kennedy's latest round of stupidities is examined. Little fillers of history and etymology grace the bottom of the pages. (S-16)

★★★★★

PROJECT X #11 ($1 from 330 E. 38th St. #25H, New York, NY 10016): An oh-so-trendy slick-covered zine of New York club gossip and fashion. I can't say I'm all that interested in photos of instant celebrities, fashion based on violence against women, and outrageous hairstyles, but maybe you are. If so, why are you reading my zine? (S-64)

★★★★★

THE PROTECTORS #4 ($2 (?) from Jeff Smith, 2106 Tradewind Dr. #182, Mesquite, TX 75150): The concluding part of this comic series. In this one the Protectors lose a few of their friends, but stop the dastardly aliens from taking over the world. I liked this: the ETs really were *alien*, most of the plotting made sense, and the pace is gratifyingly fast. (S-30)

★★★★★

PSYCHEDELIC DISEASE #8 ($2 from Toxin, 3521 N. Kenwood, Kansas City, MO 64116): A long-running punk music zine which has its own idiosyncratic personality. Toxin uses quite a bit of space for press clippings and pictures which apparently struck some chord with him, from dead babies to comic snippets. There are a batch of music reviews, some short poetry, and interviews with MDC, All and Chemical People. (HL-40)

★★★★★

PUDDLE #2-3 ($1 from Chris Appelcore, PO Box 381, Miranda, CA 95553): A zine that's sort of a cross between mucis and comics. There's interviews with folks like Cringer (in #3), but there's also plenty of visual stuff. Flagburning and the silliness of the hippie revival are two of the recurring topics here. Looking good. (S-16)

★★★★★

PULSAR! #14 ($3.50 from Tony Ubelhor, PO Box 886, Evansville, IN 47706-0886): A SF quarterly with a wide spread of features. I was uninspired by the fiction in this issue (James Snyder's "Foodstuff" is almost painfully bad), but the rest is of giood quality. This includes book reviews, and interview with author Raymond E. Feist, notes on zines and conventions, and a fairly upbeat lettercolumn. Several bits are aimed at would-be writers. (S-50t)

★★★★★

PUNK'S NOT DEAD #1-2 ($1 (?) from PO Box 60254, Oklahoma City, OK 73146): I'm not sure what to make of this. On one level, the review of Sid and Nancy (in #1) flanked by reviews of a bunch of current records suggests an ironic juxtaposition. On the other, the obvious pasteup lines make it look like all the text was lifted from some more mainstream periodical, though I don't know which—this would, I suppose, be even more ironic, fame only in death. (S-6t)

★★★★★

PURE SEX #3 ($50 & Age Statement from B.N. Duncan, c/o BEFP, 2425 College Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704): This dates from about 1980, but Duncan has a few copies left for the serious collector. As the title implies, it's pretty well nothing but sex in comic form—by Duncan, publisher Tom Brinkmann, Brad Foster, Clay Geerdes, and many more. Some pages will upset feminists or prudes, but many depict straightforward physical love. A reasonably important part of comics history. (S-40)

★★★★★

PWALIVE Vol. 2 #5 ($5/yr from PO Box 6089, Minneapolis, MN 55406): A publication "by, for and about persons affected by AIDS". This issue is quite packed, starting off with some challenges to recent press releases from various other AIDS organizations suggesting testing and AZT. They then look at media responses to a some vocabulary suggestions they made in a previous issue. Articles on AZT and Compound Q lead into a calendar and contact section. (S-24t)

★★★★★

PYROTECHNICS #43 ($4/4 issues from Constance Trembley [note "PYRO" on check], c/o PO Box 217, West Chicago, IL 60185): The newsletter of General Technics, a slightly crazy bunch of science fiction fen who do more than just read the books. This issue reports on their latest campout, featuring a homemade blimp big enough to lift people and quantities of explosives. They also talk about real research their members are doing, and find tech humor to print. (S-10t)

★★★★★

QT'S ENTERTAINER #12 ($5/4 issues from Watson's QT, 670 Providence St., Woonsocket, RI 02895): This is a very mainstream sort of zine. The main features center around the entertainment world, with this issue featuring profiles of the stars of "Golden Girls". There are also listings of various fan clubs, recipes, and some Elvis memorabilia. To top it off there's "Ask Anna", a household advice column. I suspect a whole separate world of publications lurks out there, with this only the tip of the iceberg. (HL-20r)

★★★★★

QUARTERNOTES #2-4 ($4 from Pete Wilson, 107 Acklen Park Dr. #303, Nashville, TN 37203): That four bucks won't necessarily get you a copy, but it will get you on the waiting list to join this apa about music, with its 25-member limit. Most of the people here are into rock, either mainstream or alternative/college, so much of the discussion concerns currently popular music. A couple of thrash hardcore fans or jazz aficionados would really help liven things up. But within their area of interest, the current members are knowledgeable and mostly pretty perceptive. (S-183)

★★★★★

QUEER #5-7 (SASE (?) from C. Nash, PO Box 603, East Lansing, MI 48826): Sort of stream of consciousness writing, loosely anchored in the arts world. It's hard to tell whether some of this stuff is cut-up, or whether Charlie's gestalt-oriented writing style makes it seem so. In any case, the text may vibrate for you, if you've been thinking about reality and artistic illusions. (L-3)

★★★★★

THE QUILL & SWORD ($5 from WLPA, PO Box 8736, Salem, MA 10971-8736): The Witches' League for Public Awareness is trying to educate the public in what witches really are: practitioners of an alternative religion, not baby-murdering Satanists. They do this through letters to the editor and other influential people, and record their results in this journal. They also reprint media coverage from all over and give suggestions on what individual witches can do. (S-24t)

★★★★★

QUIMBY #18 ($3 from PO Box 281, Astor Stn., Boston, MA 02123): A multimedia zine of art and culture. In this issue we have a handy list of Hungarian swear words, some bondage comics. short fiction, interviews with Bulkhead and Cxema, and a primer on French Kissing. Some is tongue-in-cheek, some—like the grave rubbing of Kerouac—is deadly serious. Slick cover and always at least a few things worth reading inside. (S-44t)

★★★★★

RACHEL'S HAZARDOUS WASTE NEWS #147-154 ($25/yr from Environmental Research Foundation, PO Box 3541, Princeton, NJ 08543-3541): A weekly single-sheeter focusing on current news in the toxics arena. #147 looks at "linguistic detoxification", the process by which radioactive wastes are declared "below regulatory concern" and hence safe to put in the dumpster. #149 discusses chemicals that ought to be banned for their mutagenicity or effect on the ozone layer. #152 has more on ozone, CFCs, and profiteering. (S-2t)

★★★★★

R.A.D. #46 ($1 *CASH* from Juliet jake, PO Box 867, Morro Bay, CA 93442): A zine of music and the punk scene and comics and whatever else Juliet wants to put in. This time that means a big chunk of space for a travelogue of her recent trip to England, some flyers, a few music reviews, and a Bluck interview. (HL-26r)

★★★★★

THE RADICAL CAPITALIST Vol. VI #3-4 ($2 from The Promethean Theatre Company, 701 Seventh Ave. #9W, New York, NY 10036): A journal of thoughtful essays revolving around one central tenet: a philosophical defense of capitalism. They spend most of their pages, at least in these two issues, attacking what they see as others' intellectual mistakes. #3 surveys "The Meaning of Glasnost" (and finds it lacking), while the main article in #4 discusses democracy as a phantasm and something not to be defended. (D-16t)

★★★★★

RADIUM SKULL COMICS #2 (25¢ from John Marshall, PO Box 831321, Richardson, TX 75083-1321): The Radium Skull is this manic character, spinal cord trailing out of his black leather jacket, who preaches a sort of Nietzscheian cyberpunk gospel. In this issue he takes on those who insist on trying to live in harmony with the world. A comic for the apocalyptic 90's. (S-2)

★★★★★

RAGMAN #12 (75¢ from 1015 Wentworth, Green Bay, WI 543904): A music zine with a strong (and sometimes abrasive) editorial presence. In this issue they interview Agnostic Front and Penelope Houston, as well as have a quick chat with Adam West. There's also a longish anti-hippie blast plus some reviews and music scene gossip. Leans towards hardcore but not exclusively so. (D-22r)

★★★★★

THE RAG OF NO ALLEGIANCE #1 ($1 from PO Box 544, Frostburg, MD 21532): A collection of ranting and raving and modern politics of opposition that gets into some chewy issues. Production delays make some of them a bit less burning than when they were written (like the report on the pro-choice demonstration in DC), but they're still worth reading. Other topics: A Henry Rollins interview, Howard Bloom on the PMRC, Project Censored. There's also a few music reviews and comics. (S-28t)

★★★★★

THE RAKE #2 ($1.50 from 202 Catharine St., Philadelphia, PA 19147): Art from the streets, art of dissent, art that shouts out to be up on telephone poles and traffic boxes. There's a variety of stuff here, from slick looking comics to crude broadsheets. The Cheap Art manifesto was pretty interesting, making some good points in its promotion of the easy way to do things. (S-32)

★★★★★

RAMBLIN' WILLIE'S BROADSIDE Vol. 1 #3 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 642, Winterville, GA 30683): Willie rambles and sings, and there's a pretty strong musical content here, including reviews of records I don't see elsewhere—obscure blues, classics, roots, that sort of things. There's also a page on beer and one on bizarre postcards. Homey and fun. (L-6t)

★★★★★

RAM-PAGES #3 ($1.50 *MO ONLY* from Carl Cella, D-22706, PO Box 8101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0001): Carl is a metalhead from way back, so some of this is music coverage, and he's looking to hear from any and all tape traders for the next issue. But the bulk of it concerns his invention for fueling your car on water via electrolysis, including letters from an outfit that's prototyping it for market right now. (S-17)

★★★★★

RAPTURE ($1 from Jim Barnes, 470- Flushing Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205): An excellent collection of new art and stories (John Gardner's "The Drunken Woodshop Professor" was great, a junior high fantasy come true). All sorts of visual stuff here, from street-poster agressive graphics to bizarre comics to arty studies. A lot for the money. (T-48t)

★★★★★

RATS WITH KEYS ($1 from 1428 Nadeau Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90019): After a number of issues I'm still not at all sure what's going on here. There's a lot of artwork included in the zine, some with sexual overtones, some without. There are also things aspiring to be poetry, ads for new technological products to aid big brother, rants and raves, tests of general knowledge, and hand-colored pages. Creativity without a program. (S-36)

★★★★★

READ ME Vol. 2 #4 ($1.50 from 1118 Hoyt Ave., Everett, WA 98201): A wide-ranging literary tabloid which features work in all genres, from short shorts to more lengthy stories, poems to opinion pieces, contests to jokes. In this issue I enjoyed Murray L. Bob;s "ABCs of Apocalyticism", a catalog of ways the world was going to end., and Penny Olien's "Vacuum Cowgirl". Plenty here to browse through. (T-24t)

★★★★★

READY MADE EXOTIC WORLD #1 ($3 *CASH* from PO Box 3987, Minneapolis, MN 55403): Luke McGuff used to put out **LIVE FROM THE STAGGER CAFE**; now he's back with this new collection of literature and politics. The premiere issue includes pieces from Joe Hoppe, Randy Russell, Mic McInnis, Rudy Rucker, and many more. Freddie Baer provides the collage cover, while Ruggero Maggi describes the Hiroshima Shadow Project inside.

There's an undercurrent of manic intensity here, of striving to get the world down on paper before it spins apart. (D-48t)

★★★★★

THE REALIST #111 ($2 from PO Box 1230, Venice, CA 90294): There are amateur smartasses, and then there are professional smartasses. This is a watering hole for the latter, and a voice of fierce satirical opposition to the system. In this issue, Matt Newman discusses Dick Nixon's recent TV commercial, while Robert Anton Wilson gets a bit more serious on the subject of the World Future Society convention. There's also lots of smaller bits of very funny stuff. (S-8t)

★★★★★

REAR GARDE #36-37 ($15/yr from PO Box 1421, Stn. H, Montreal, Que., H3G 2N4, CANADA): All sorts of indie music coverage from north of the border. There's a hilarious Dik Van Dykes interview in #36 (they used questions from a previous Metallica interview) as well as features on Bad Brains, Groovy Aardvark, Blast and more. #37 includes the Laughing Hyenas and The Cure. NMS stuff takes up a few pages. Nifty layouts draw your eye to all sorts of little bits, and local happenings are adequately covered. Definitely worth a peek if you're going to be in the region. (T-32t)

★★★★★

REBEL GRAPHICS #2 ($2.50 from Manna Underground Press, PO Box 1280, Youngstown, OH 44501): A collection of comics with a Christian slant. Most of the stuff here is by Chris Yambar, who is also interviewed inside. There are evangelical points made throughout, but they're sort of tolerant evangelicals, defending (for example) Christian Contemporary Music. (T-28)

★★★★★

RECALCITRATE #3 ($1 from Jesse Murrell, PO Box 4976, Albuquerque, NM 87196): This is a zine set up for readers to express their opinions, aimed at the underground and alternative community. This issue has stuff on animal rights, Stephen Biko, the oppressiveness of MacDonalds, and flagburning, among other subjects. Contributions are apparently eagerly invited. (S-20)

★★★★★

RED BUDDHA #58 ($10/12 issues from Rev. N.B. Shifferly, Mind-Way Church, PO Box 664 Dept. RB, Mansfield, OH 44901): A collection of stories and notes from the martial arts and associated mental disciplines. They are eclectic in their approach, drawing on many cultures and schools in an attempt to develop a unified mode of warrior thought. Many of the members are in prison, and they are concerned with prison support and freedom of worship as well. (S-6)

★★★★★

REEL TO REAL Vol. 1 #4-5 ($1 (?) from 2008 Hillsborough St., Raleigh, NC 27607): This slick new music industry magazine is being distributed free across the South, but there isn't a subscription price listed. Most of it is features on bands and performers: Sun Ra and Concrete Blonde among those in #4, 24-7 Spyz and B-52s in #5. They also review a few records and discuss some behind the scenes things like the costs of making a rock video. (S-32t)

★★★★★

RELIGION WATCH Vol. 4 #11-Vol. 5 #1 ($15/11 issues from PO Box 652, N. Bellmore, NY 11710): A monthly survey of news from the religious side of things, compiled by editor Richard Cimino from a bunch of magazines and other sources. He gives overall views of major trends in a concise way. #11 includes the new Reconstructionist Jewish prayer book, the influence of Opus Dei in Brazil, the convertibility of Muslims, and the increased militancy of Catholic gay groups, for example. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ALERT Vol. V #8-9 ($15/yr from Coalition for Religious Freedom, 515 Wythe St. #201, Alexandria, VA 22314): A wide-ranging survey of church-state relations from a group which is working to keep churches free of the state. #8 has everything from a tax exemption for a Wiccan church to a kidnapping by CAN-approved deprogrammers to the current abortion controversy to the Quaker lawsuit against the current immigration law. #9 features some interesting correspondence between the CRF and the Cult Awareness Network. (S-16t)

★★★★★

RELIGIOUS SOCIALISM Vol. 13 #2 ($5/4 issues from PO Box 80, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0080): A spinoff from the Democratic Socialists of America, this newsletter takes an explicitly religious stance, mostly sort of liberal Christian but with other influences—"Buddhist Socialism" is the lead article this time. In addition to thought pieces there is also a section of news from around the world of possible interest. (S-12t)

★★★★★

RESONANCE #16 ($1.50 from Judy Wall, PO Box 64, Sumterville, FL 33585): A MENSA-affiliated publication for folks interested in the interaction between electromagnetic waves and living critters. This issue has a variety of letters and articles on the subject: Judy Wall looks at the literature about mechanisms of interaction, while Woody Blue writes about the microwave harassment of womens' peace camps. There's also a letter from Peter Lewis about finding a fraudulent paper in the literature on the subject. (D-16t)

★★★★★

RETRO ROCK Vol. 2 #5/6 ($2 from 44 E. 5th St., Brooklyn, NY 11218): The word that springs to mind about this music zine is competent; they do a workmanlike but unflashy job of presenting their stuff. This time that includes intervierws with The Cynics and Screaming Trees, plus a pile of reviews. The latter aren't afraid to cover major artists alongside the indie regulars. (S-40)

★★★★★

REVOLUTIONARY WORKER #522 ($12/3 months from PO Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654): It's sometimes hard to tell whether the Revolutionary Communist Party is a political group or a cult. Their newspaper is definitely hardcore agitprop, with a lovely centerfold of truths from their Chairman Bob Avakian (familiar to readers of southern California bridge abutments), and pages on which the RCP attempts to seize the vanguard on positions from flagburning to the miners' strike. (T-16t)

★★★★★

RHODE ISLAND MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL NEWSLETTER Oct. 1989 ($10/yr from RI Survival Education Fund, PO Box 2534, Providence, RI 02906): The Mobilization for Survival is sort of an umbrella group that brings together a lot of peace and social justice concerns. Between these pages you'll find anti-nuclear news, Central America, the War on Drugs, the lack of affordable housing, and lots more. They provide all sorts of news on upcoming actions and needs in the community. (T-8t)

★★★★★

RICK KIRBY: SUPER-VILLAIN SMASHER #2 ($2 (?) from Klop, 7130 Hollywood Blvd. #3, Hollywood, CA 90046): There was some delay between issues here, but this comic was worth the wait. Kirby is a sort of Mickey Spillane character with an indeterminate past, who gets involved in violent situations with depressing frequency. He's a man at war with his own humanity, determined to keep moving while righting wrongs. Wild strips are the result, with a small feature of another crime-fighter between for a breather. (S-24)

★★★★★

RIGHT HERE #32 ($1.59 from PO Box 1014, Huntington, IN 46750): Calling itself "The Hometown Magazine", this is aimed at a local area; they manage to get ads from all sorts of businesses in town. It's got a relaxed, FAMILY CIRCLE-ish ambience to it, with a couple of short stories, some poetry and a recipe page. This issue is mostly Christmas stuff, in honor of the holiday season. (D-42)

★★★★★

ROCK & ROLL 3/89 (10FIM CASH or 25FIM check from Esa Virta, Parkanonkatu 4 C 29, 33720 Tampere, FINLAND): Those prices are in Finnish marks, just in case that wasn't obvious. This rock magazine seems to concentrate on slightly older groups or perhaps garage music, but as the contents are in Finnish, it's hard to tell. From the names, there is some local content as well as the imported stuff. (A5-32r)

★★★★★

ROCK & ROLL CONFIDENTIAL #72 ($24/yr from PO Box 15052, Long Beach, CA 90815): Well-connected opinion and gossip from the music industry. Editor Dave Marsh is one of the leading lights in the fight against the PMRC and other censor wannabes. In this issue they also detail the tension between Guns 'n' Roses and Living Colour on the recent Stones tour and talk about the best bets in new music. (S-8t)

★★★★★

ROCK AGAINST SEXISM Vol. 3 #1 ($1 from 464 Harrison Ave. - Basement, Boston, MA 02118): These folks enjoy rock, bu they don't enjoy the sexism and heterosexism that runs through the music world, and they're trying to do things about it. This issue has an interview with Tom Jennings about HOMOCORE, a chat with Mecca Normal, stuff from the New Lavender Panthers, and more. There are tips on graffiti and fighting Nazi Skins, fanzine and music reviews, and reports on some actions. (S-32r)

★★★★★

ROLLIN UNDER 10/89 (IRCs from PO Box 17590, 54009 Thessaloniki, GREECE): This one is prettier than before, with a new typeset look and intriguing layouts that compete with the best American music zines. However, it's still entirely in Greek—except for the band names, which is why I can tell you this issue features Sugarcubes, Legendary Pink Dots, Screaming Trees, Hawkwind, Verlaines, and many more important indie groups. (S-46t)

★★★★★

ROUGH & TUMBLE #1 ($1 & a stamp from Neil Schmidt, RD9 Box 95, Bridgeton, NJ 08302): Gory comics, sort of like a cross between the classic EC stuff and the punk milieu, with a bit of splatter film thrown in for good measure. Neil gives us a man lost in advertisements, a wax mannequin who comes to life, and other unlikely changes. (D-12)

★★★★★

ROX Vol. 2 #4 ($15/yr from PO Box 471, Reistertown, MD 21136-0471): A large-format music tabloid with the emphasis on Baltimore-area bands but some attention to the national scene (mostly in the form of major artists reviews) as well. They publish a good gossip column, profiles on local bands, and some innovative features—like the chat with a couple of photographers specializing in presskit photos in this issue. Not too flashy, but solid. (T-32t)

★★★★★

RUBBER PUPPY #4 ($1 or 45¢ postage and "keen detritus" from 2309-D Pruett, Austin, TX 78703-4349): A collection of comics, art, and short stories that seem to skate along the thin edge of madness. Editor Bill Bohrer does a lot of manic art, while Wayne Henderson, Paul Weinmann and John Porcellino (among other people) all contribute words. There are true stories in here of daycare, beach sex, hospital rounds and other modern Twilight Zones. (D-24t)

★★★★★

THE RUNNING DINOSAUR #4 (SASE from Ralph E. Vaughan, 353 Oxford St., Chula Vista, CA 92011): A collection of reviews and meanderings from Ralph, who runs Running Dinosaur Press. This issue includes Chaosium's Lovecraftian board game, a short story contest, and a very laudatory review of FACTSHEET FIVE. Thanks, Ralph. (S-4)

★★★★★

RURAL NETWORK ADVOCATE #71-72 ($10/yr from Lois Fields, Rt. 2, Gays Mills, WI 54631): A newsletter for country singles and others interested in country living (either now or someday). The Network acts to bring people together, through personal correspondence, articles and letters here, and sometimes even face-to-face meetings. There's a feel of relaxation here, of withdrawal from the modern mania for speed, which I find quite attractive. (S-8)

★★★★★

RURAL PROPERTY BULLETIN Vol. 9 #4 ($12/yr from PO Box 4331, Prescott, AZ 86302): This one is aimed at people anxious to give up the rat race and move out into the country somewhere. Basically it's ads for property for sale, plus a few odds and ends like businesses and vacation resorts for sale. Prices start at $2500 and move up to half a million or so. (T-24t)

★★★★★

RURAL SOUTHERN VOICE FOR PEACE #46 (Donation from RSVP-FOR, 1901 Hannah Branch Rd., Burnsville, NC 28714): A very grassroots newsletter which touches on a variety of peace and social justice concerns. This issue includes more on the coal miners' strike, a firsthand report of a visit to Libya, notes on a prison non-violence training project, and much more. There are plenty of people of good will out there putting their time and energy into making the world a better place, and this will help you find some of them. (S-16t)

★★★★★

SACRIFICIAL STATIC #1 ($1.60 from 1430 Willamette #334, Eugene, OR 97401): A somewhat icky collection of debris from the underground and underbelly of the normal culture. This includes short essays, penile enlargers, true crime stories, photos of genitalia, death rockers, cheesy ad art, and more. No especial rhyme or reason to any of it, just a bit of unordinary madness. (D-28)

★★★★★

SANDHILLS LIBERTARIAN GAZETTE Oct. 1989 (50¢(?) from PO Box 2297, West Columbia, SC 29171): A libertarian newsletter for folks in the South Carolina midlands. They discuss the basic ideas behind libertarianism fairly often, and are more interested in attracting new members than anything else. A bit of state and national news rounds out the package. (S-4)

★★★★★

THE SAN DIEGAN PAGAN Vol. 4 #3 ($8/4 issues from Gwen Frazier, PO Box 13010, San Diego, CA 92113): A pagan and Wiccan networking zine which concentrates on the south end of California. However, they print a batch of short articles that might be of interest to those outside the area: one on household pets as familiars and another on a film by and about Wiccans. There's also a good sprinkling of poetry and art. (D-32t)

★★★★★

SASQUATCH #11-12 (50¢ from The Prime Minister (of Livestock and Heavy Machinery), PO Box 126, Milford, ME 04461): #11 of this marginal zine opens with a blast simply labeled "Diatribe", taking to task the underground and marginals press for its deadly sameness, for no longer offending and exciting. They then proceed to offer a small story about Jesus as a drug dealer, perhaps to point a way out of the dilemma. Fun writing, a combination between rant and essay styles. #12 has socially unconscious ranting and too many eels. (S-4t)

★★★★★

SATORI Fall 1989 ($8/4 issues from Hands Off The Press, PO Box 318, Tivoli, NY 12583): The major article in this litmag this time is an interview with Carolee Schneemann, a filmmaker and performance artist whose *Fuses* recently caused a scandal at the Moscow film festival. Other choice bits include Peter Magubanes's photos of South African children and Robert Yagley's poem "Tivoli Reveries". Nice open layout and careful graphics. (S-20t)

★★★★★

SCAREAPHANALIA #81-83 (60¢ from Michael Gingold, 55 Nordica Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520): A long-running monthly publication about horror films, whether in theatrical release or on video. #81 includes bits on Nekromantic, Carnival of Souls and Witchboard, among others. #82 headlines an interview with director John McNaughton. Michael writes in a chatty style, flowing from one review into another with minimal breakup, and intersperses movie stills throughout. Competent and knowledgeable. #83 has some notes on the new movie version of Communion. (HL-8r)

★★★★★

SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER #68-69 ($1.50 from Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-1329): This one is for writers of the fantastic (SF, horror, fantasy) who are working with the small press, and editors in the same field. Think of it as sort of a watering hole—a place to come and swap news on who's buying what, which markets are overstocked, and what problems folks are having. The market news is concise, there are short reviews to help you pick places to submit to, and the letter column is always fun. (D-32r)

★★★★★

SCHMAGA Vol. 1 #1 ($1 from J. Kern, 436 Indiana St., Vallejo, CA 94590): A collection of semi-random material which moved Jim to be reprinted. This includes a rant distributed at a Grateful Dead show, a recipe for lamprey pie, and an article on the fate of Jack Black. There's also Chinese musical instruments and Mexican beer reviews. An entertaining batch of stuff. (D-28)

★★★★★

SCIENCE FICTION

★★★★★

SCIENCE FICTION GUIDE #15 ($1.50 from Charles Platt, 594 Broadway #1208, New York, NY 10012): A somewhat idiosyncratic zine of SF commentary and curmudgeonly ranting. The main feature in this issue is a channeled interview with what's left of Robert A. Heinlein. Platt presents it in deadpan transcript fashion, not bothering to comment on what an obvious scam it all was; perhaps he's waiting for the letter-writers to do that. Gregory Feeley comments on the trend of back-cover "blurbismo" in the field, and there's some editorial notes on the recent Worldcon. (D-20t)

★★★★★

SCIENCE FICTION EYE #5 ($5 from PO Box 43244, Washington, DC 20010-9244): This one has survived postal hassles and the assault of the Scientology defenders to put out another fine issue of cyber-tinged SF criticism. The pinnacle of this issue is John Shirley's dissection of "The New SF Underground", pinpointing writers to watch (several of whom, including Webb and Misha, you should already know of from reading FF). Charles Platt decries the steady degeneration of the field under the influence of paperback tripe, Dan Joy reports on the latest fun drugs and the people who plug them, and Paul Di Filippo looks at Pynchon and his impact. It's not all highfalutin criticism; there's some honest trench warfare as well. (S-104t)

★★★★★

SCORE REVIEW 18 and **SCORE SHEET 25-27** ($1/4 issues from 491 Mandana Blvd. #3, Oakland, CA 94610): A paid of single-sheeters from the edge of the poetry and art communities. The REVIEW exists to print criticism; this issue concentrates on some of the noise-based works available from Xexoxial Endarchy and others. The SHEET publishes experimental works. These include Malok's "Fuck Dirge" in #25 and a chopped-up poem from Ross martin in #27. (S-2)

★★★★★

SECOND LOOK July/Aug. 1989 ($7.75/yr from PO Box 3566, Grand Rapids, MI 49502): "The real issues in sports...and life" is what this Christian sports magazine promises. Slick and with lots of color photos, it's mainly interviews with athletes who happen the be Christians. The major concentration is on the sport itself. They also discuss things like "toughness" from a Biblical perspective. (S-24t)

★★★★★

THE SECOND STONE #7 ($12.60/yr from PO Box 8340, New Orleans, LA 70182): A national newspaper directed towards gays and lesbians who are also Christians. They feature many news bits from the gay community, not all with a specifically Christian slant. Their feature stories are more central: this issue they take a look at "change ministries", organizations which say they can convert people's sexuality from gay to straight. (T-20t)

★★★★★

SECULAR HUMANIST TENDENCIES #3 ($1.25 from Ed Huyck, 16389 Gladiola Ave., Rosemount, MN 55068): A mixture of music, art, and opinion. Bands in this issue include the Moshed Potatoes and Celibate Commandos. There's reprints of some Little Free Press material and a consideration of some of the wilder claims of Shirley MacLaine. Lots of comics and short reviews also. For the thinking punk. (D-32r)

★★★★★

SELF PUBLISHER Vol. 1 #8-9 (Sample for 1 stamp from Ian Shires, PO Box 360921, Strongsville, OH 44136):A newszine about small press comics. Ian reviews current work (much of it in minicomic format) and prints letters from others in the field. He mostly avoids being too snotty in his answers, though he persists in his thought that it's possible to do bestselling pro work in a xerox format. Still, there's a lot of action in the field and a reasonable chunk of it is reported on here. (HL-16)

★★★★★

SENSATIONS #1 ($5 from David Messineo, 2 Radio Ave. #A5, Secaucus, NJ 07094): This litmag is a couple of years old, but copies are still available. It's well-done but without frills, emphasizing the works rather than the rpesentation. Interesting work includes Dorian Tenore's poem "Revelations in Kodachrome" and John Morvay's enigmatic short story "Holy Smoke". Very much oriented towards exploring people and feelings. (S-30t)

★★★★★

THE SF CONVENTION REGISTER Summer 1989 ($1.50 & 45¢ SASE from Erwin S. Strauss, PO Box 3433, Fairfax, VA 22038): A massive listing of conventions in the science fiction and closely related fields. Strauss gives capsule listing about each one, with theme, time, guests, prices and whatever other information is available. Includes cons as soon as next weekend and as long off as 2001. Well indexed. (S-20r)

★★★★★

THE SHADOW #6-7 ($1 from PO Box 20298, New York, NY 10009): A rebellious voice from the Lower East Side of New York, an outgrowth of last year's riot at Tompkins Square Park and the continuing problem of homelessness. They take an aggressive attitude towards cops and politicians, and have plenty to say about squatting, curfews, Yuppies, and other local events. An invaluable source of information that the mainstream media would rather ignore. (T-24)

★★★★★

SHADOWPLAY #20 ($4.50 from PO Box 343, Petersham, NSW 2049, AUSTRALIA): A pretty little pagan zine from Australia that features a lot of interchange of ideas. #20 has a special forum section in initiation, as well as short fiction, lovely illustrations, and an article on the Bach Flower Remedies. They maintain a network of contacts worldwide and are a good source of information on the Australian pagan scene. (D-58t)

★★★★★

SHANGRI-LA #3 (75¢ from Jeff Stevens, 124 1/2 Broadway E. #27, Seattle, WA 98102): A small zine of confusing drawings and reviews of other comics oriented zines. Plots are not big here, though the comics do progress from panel to panel. But they're unpredictable and surreal about it. (S-8)

★★★★★

SHAREWARE MAGAZINE Vol. IV #2-4 ($20/6 issues from 1030D E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086): This is the house organ of PC-SIG, a large and friendly distributor of shareware—computer programs you can try before you buy. In addition to cataloging the latest additions and upgrades to their vast collection of programs, it provides reviews of products from crossword generators and bowling score programs to databases and spreadsheets. It's informative and fun, and a good way to find affordable useful software. (S-46t)

★★★★★

SHEER FILTH #7 ($2 *CASH/IMO* & Age Statement from David Flint, 39 Holly Street, Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4DP, UK): A zine that knows what it wants to deliver—the movies and books and so on that no one else will talk about. They range fairly widely, with an interview with Tuppy Owens and a brief history of Betty Page (with sadly poor photo reproduction) in this issue. There's also reviews of porno and other cult movies and a list of songs about death that have come out in the last few years. (A5-24r)

★★★★★

THE SHINE ($2 from Eli Talcam, Neve Yaakov 421/15, PO Box 27446, Jerusalem, ISRAEL): I can't tell you a heck of a lot about this one because it happens to be almost entirely in Hebrew. Eli says it's "about life, death, & behind the bullshit!". It's got a sort of punk collage look to it. (A4-16)

★★★★★

SHIT & SHINOLA #1 ($1 from Travis Fristoe, Univ. of Florida, 18-0235 Rawlings, Gainesville, FL 32612-1801): A new music fanzine that's mostly reviews of recorded stuff and concerts, from punk and college-radio bands. There's also a mail interview with the Dead Milkmen and a plea for things to publish in future issues. (S-13)

★★★★★

SHOTS #17 ($2 from 304 S. 4th, Danville, KY 40422): A grassroots photography journal that's doing some pretty good stuff. Editor D. Price seems to be doing a good job of keeping things accessible to dunderheads like me while still picking up on enough themes and such for the real photo nuts. This issue's theme is "portraiture", and it's a varied bag, with a lot of unexpected and even touching shots. Subscribe and send your best work for future issues. (T-48)

★★★★★

SHREDDING MATERIAL #4 ($1 from 2515 Bidle Rd., Middletown, MD 21769): This issue includes a free sticker as well as a wide range of material: skating, music, comics and literary endeavors are all present. They interview a couple of bands plus one skater, print some photos, and talk about the local scene as well as how to keep your ramp in good shape over the winter. Looking good. (D-28)

★★★★★

SIDESHOW Vol. 1 #1 ($3.50 from Glen Armstrong, 2951 Voorheis, Pontiac, MI 48054): A mix of short stories and even shorter poetry, generally pretty close to the mainstream. One interesting touch was a whole section of poems (I presume invited, though the editors don't specify) all titled "Wax Paper". They also include an interview with Jack Kerouac's common-law wife. (D-40t)

★★★★★

SIGN OF THE TIMES Vol. 4 #2 ($15/4 issues from Studio 403, PO Box 70672, Seattle, WA 98107-0672): A litmag that continues to delight and, occasionally, offend—it would be more than occasionally if you never wanted to see sex mentioned in a story. In this issue, Pam Quinlan makes up the story of Bob Dylan's life, Steve Anderson drops a water buffalo, Richard Frazen twists the vampire legend another notch weirder, and John Concilio hitchhikes across the country Penthouse-letters style. (S-32t)

★★★★★

THE SILLY CLUB P.U.N. Vol. III #2 (SASE (?) from PO Box 536583, Orlando, FL 32853): Both issues here appear to heave the same number, but then, I'd expect anything of a zine where "P.U.N." stands for "Play On Words". The Silly Club appears to be a two-man comedy troupe with a bizarre sense of humor, and these words reflect that quite well. See the art of Norigami (Oriental paper-unfolding) explained, understand why Abe Lincoln must have been a woman, and follow the family tree of the typewriter in these pages. (S-8t)

★★★★★

SINGIN' DOSE ANTI PSYCHOTIC BLUES #5 ($1.50 *CASH/stamps* from Frank, 4417 18th Ave. #166, Brooklyn, NY 11204, or trade for women's shoes): Frank is a self-proclaimed psychopath, and this is a collaged collection of all manner of things he enjoys: torture, firearms, crime, serial killers, foot fetishes, spanking, and child abuse, for starters. In this issue Frank explains some of his philosophy, in revolting detail. Not for children or the possibly offended. (S-70t)

★★★★★

THE SINGLE EYE #1 ($2 (?) from Allan Clark, PO Box 1415, Stn. H, Montreal, Que., H3G 2W4, CANADA): Don't put the zine name on the envelope; Allan's mailcritters have no sense of humor. This is sort of an experimental media round-up, with writings from G.X. Jupitter-Larson, an interview with Scott Marshall of Panic Productions, and more. Short reviews and full page artworks fill up the corners. (D-20r)

★★★★★

SINGULARITY #2 ($1.50 (cash preferred) from Ron Warren Evans, 89 Massachusetts Ave. #199, Boston, MA 02115): This one has been missing for a while, as Ron went through some psychotic breaks, but he's OK now, and it was worth the wait to be fascinated again. Eric Klien discusses the hassles of arranging for cryonic preservation, Jay O'Connell relates his own descent into madness, and Diane Thome explores peaceful means for change. There's also neat illustrations and a page of neologisms. High-class entertainment and ideas for those not scared of the future. (S-16t)

★★★★★

SIVULLINEN #10 ($1 from Jouni Wäärakangas, Poste Restante, 00980 Helsinki 98, FINLAND): A cool zine of comic art and punk poetry. The former tends to be pretty intense stuff; the latter is from folks like Bob Z., Paul Weinman, and Chris Caggiano. Concerted opposition to the system in an attractive package. (A5-40)

★★★★★

SLAP-HAPPY COMICS #2 (25¢ from C.C. Cilla, PO Box 41302, Tucson, AZ 85717-1302): A minicomic with a bunch of shaggy-doggish single-panel cartoons inside. There's some onion gum, a man involved in a meaningful relationship with his caulking gun, and a teenager on fire. Nice art, conusing stories. (M-8)

★★★★★

SLF #1 ($1 from L.W. Swan, 2062 E. 115th., Cleveland, OH 44106): SLF stands for "Semiotic Liberation Front", and this mini is in the tradition of art movements throughout the modern age in that it grabs what it wants from all the others and tosses it into one big stew. Collage, Situationism, Marxism, semiotics...it's all here, in confusingly overlaid pages, detourned art, original comics and more. A bash over the head with a verbo-visual stick. (M-44)

★★★★★

SLINGSHOT Vol. 1 #31 (Donation from 700 Eshleman Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720): One of the feistier radical student newspapers around, proving that Berkeley still has some hotheads in it. They report on the recent anarchist gathering (with some harsh words for elitist action organizers), provide all sorts of info on the drug war, and document other cases of injustice and repression. They're also into smoke-ins, direct action, and student governance of universities. On the thin edge financially, so send a couple of bucks if you can. (T-12t)

★★★★★

SLUG & LETTUCE #11 ($1 from Chris, 20 Newport Pkwy #409, Jersey City, NJ 07310): A basic hardcore music zine, but done with a lot of care, so it looks real good. PMS, Eviction and Doomwatch are the interviews here. There's also a lot of live reviews, a few zines and records, and a letter about the financial realities of zine publishing. (S-8r)

★★★★★

THE SOCIALIST Oct. 1989 ($5/yr from 5502 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016): This is the newsletter of the Socialist Party. it's mainly editorial content, giving the party line on things like hunger in America, the war on drugs, and events in China. There's some labor news as well, plus notes on SP events and conventions. (S-12t)

★★★★★

SOCIAL MUTANTS #2 ($1.50 from Sid Mitzlaff, 3106 Dodge St. #204, Omaha, NE 68131): Heavy metal music and social justice combine in this zine, newly relocated to Omaha. On the noise front, there's longish interviews with Oliver Magnum and Indestroy in this issue, as well as some shorter notices and gossip. But there's also some basic info on a group called Youth for Peace as well as statistics on homelessness in the US. An encouraging sort of zine. (S-32)

★★★★★

SOCIAL SMEGMA #2 (75¢ from Derrick Ogrodny, 8100 W. Berwyn, Chicago, IL 60656): Apart from a certain inexplicable fondness for bodily secretions, this one is actually pretty funny. It takes collage and ranting to reasonably unusual heights of silliness, and has fun ragging on society while it does so. Music zines get slammed in one offhand remark, while bad poetry is mercilessly shredded. (S-10)

★★★★★

SOCIAL VOMIT #4-5 ($1 from Mike Canich, PO Box 31, Romeo, MI 48065): Well, this is sort of a comics zine, but not exactly. Rather than neat closed stories, Mike draws graphics and letters along with them in a search for...what? Truth? Maybe, or at least an exploration of ways of getting towards the truth. The main feature here is "Clyde", who seems to be well trapped by his own thoughts and the world. Really fine art reminiscent of the Blanchard/Kegel pieces in **BLATCH**. (S-20)

★★★★★

SOCIÉTÉ Vol. 2 #3 ($6 from 1317 N. San Fernando Blvd. #310, Burbank, CA 91504): A networking and instructional zine for those working in neo-African religions of various kinds, including Voudon, Macumba, Santeria and stranger things—in this issue one author discusses "Cyber Voudoo". They publish rituals, accounts of experiences, notes on making magickal tools, and more. Sort of the pagan equivalent to world beat music. (S-50)

★★★★★

SOFT TIMES Vol. 1 #4 ($1 from Armas Salminen, 317 Franklin, Galena, IL 61036-1819): This one came out clear back in November '77, but Armas recently unearthed a stash and is making them available to FF readers. It's sort of a hippie literary zine, with music reviews, opinion columns, mildly underground comics, and Kerouac worship thrown in. Sort of a classic. (S-28)

★★★★★

SOLD OUT #8 ($2 from PO Box 7071, Windsor, ONT, N9C 3Y6, CANADA): A music zine with a hardcore focus but a clean, pro look. Interviews this time go for No For An Answer, Cro-Mags and others, giving the folks in the bands plenty of space to express their ideas. Record reviews don't pull any punches even at the risk of offending major advertisers. And the lettercolumn has a rant from a suppressed member of the middle class. Includes a glossy centerfold Rollins poster (S-40t)

★★★★★

SOMEOFUS #9 ($1 (?) from PO Box 7718, Berkeley, CA 94707): This appears to be a mix of whatever caught editor Kevin's eye. This includes an article on smoking prohibition around the turn of the century, some antique book on morning ablutions, the Society for Creative Anachronism, and eating foods to smell funny. No common thread is apparent. (D-32r)

★★★★★

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING #2-4 ($5/6 issues from 516 3rd St. NE, Massillon, OH 44646): A Christian-oriented music zine that's not too pushy. It's grown a lot in these three issues, mutating from a few stapled sheets to a cute digest with hand-colored covers. Inside there's an interview with 35 Little Ducks In a Basket and a report from the most recent Cornerstone festival. There's also some heavy handed anti-military and anti-drug pages. (D-20r)

★★★★★

SOMETHING SHORT #1 (Free from Daniel Ust, 321 Maple St. #49, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861): A collection of short stories and less definable material. In the introductory issue, Kim Carsons starts a retelling of the Eden myth from a new point of view, while CTL raps about drug laws and the editor brainstorms on avoiding writer's block. (S-8)

★★★★★

SOUND SEEN #10 (2 stamps from 709 W. Illinois, Urbana, CA 61801): An unpretentious music zine which proves that there is intelligent life in college. From a fast rundown on ska to advice to the terminally confused to the Smashing Pumpkins to ragging on SST records, they provide a nice commentary on the college music arena. I like their style. (D-24r)

★★★★★

SOUNDZINE Vol. 2 #1 ($1 from PO Box 5312, Richmond, VA 23220): This one is primarily for music in the Richmond and DC areas, though some other influences creep in: SubGenius and Libertarian, for two. The major feature here is an interview with Bill Kitchen, a young man made good in the local music promotions industry. There's also a page of DC area gossip and a page of useful phone numbers, from tow trucks to radio stations. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN Vol. XIII #1 ($15/yr from SCLP, PO Box 50643, Columbia, SC 29250): A nice-looking state LP newletter that makes good use of its resources. There's a catchy interview with Marshall Fritz on the back cover, and an interesting look at the qualities of "good" and "bad" activists inside. Little news bits, from the LP and society as a whole, dot the pages. (S-10t)

★★★★★

THE SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER Vol. XVIII #5($8/yr from Rte. 10 Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): A Libertarian view of the world, fueled by the absurdities of everyday life and a selection of editorial cartoons. Editor John Harllee keeps up a running commentary between news clippings, designed to show how stupid governments are. (S-12)

★★★★★

SPACE TAB #2 ($2 (?) from Flash Tabloid, PO Box 645, Silver Springs, FL 32688): No price on the cover, but they'd probably rather swap for interesting info instead. This is a collage of material from the 60s to the 90s, mostly pretty radical. Anti-drug war propaganda, conspiracy theory, food irradiation, what the government doesn't tell you...these and more are collected from a variety of sources, mainstream and underground. A fine spirit buoys it up. (HL-28t)

★★★★★

SPARK #4 (1 stamp from 63 1/2 W. Main St., Fredonia, NY 14063): A small but openminded zine for students at the college campus out in Fredonia. It's got a radical edge to it, but is pretty much directed at campus and student concerns: parking, the roots of non-conformity, a list of organizations worth checking out. (S-8)

★★★★★

SPEW & REVIEW #36 (25¢ from Bob Konshak, 422 4th St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414): Ten years old with this issue, **SPEW & REVIEW** is still mostly a spot for Bob to spout off on current music and anything else that gets his typewriter going. He generally manages to poke fun at lame celebrities, with the cover review of "Shampoo Whore" Belinda Carlisle being a prime example here. (S-4)

★★★★★

SPINNING FREE Oct./Nov. 1989 ($15/yr from Blue Sun, 7407 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55426): This one features a combination of environmental and music news, together with a call for community activism. The Blue Sun Network is being organized to put activists in touch with each other; there's a survey & registration form in this issue. There are also articles on groundwater pollution, cloth diapers, and the band The Maroons. Dedicated and looking to spread some energy around. (S-32t)

★★★★★

THE SPLINTER #1 ($4 from PO Box 879, 36 Adelaide St. E, Toronto, ONT, M5C 2K5, CANADA): Another first, at least for the pages of FF: this is an underground architecture zine. The folks doing it are trying to come up with new ways to conceptualize space and cities, while reporting on developments such as squatting. For some reason there is also a theatrical adaptation of "Wild in the Streets" here. Plenty of drawings and plans, good (though heavy) use of color, and not too much jargon make it all reasonably accessible. (S-46t)

★★★★★

THE SPOREPRINT ($1 or more dontation from The Fane, PO Box 1295, Stn. E, Victoria, BC, V8W 2W3, CANADA): The Fane is a religious group which treats psychedelics as sacraments and is trying to get society to come around to its point of view. Right now **THE SPOREPRINT** has a wide variety of news on pot, LSD, psilocybin and other goodies, mostly in the form of reprinted clippings or letters from readers. A spiritual successor to the Neo-American Church. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE SPOTTED CHICKEN REPORT Vol. 4 #26 ($6/7 issues from Route 1 Box 950, Twisp, WA 98856): Personal, friendly, rural humor from the somewhat isolated Methow Valley of Washington. Editor Jeanne Hardy describes herself as "a 47 year old short, round person with light brown hair and an odd sense of humor." Most of this is evident from the newsletter (with the photos in black & white, I can't swear to the hair), which touches on gardening, inflatable pterodactyls, phone calls at 2 in the morning, and of course, spotted chickens. Fun stuff. (S-20)

★★★★★

SPUN #41-44 (75¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520): This is probably the best of the DCC line of publications. It's a comic-look takeoff on SPIN reviewing music they ignore and giving over some space to other zines as well. Doug's mix of art and words works well here, and his musical taste puts in short blurbs about lots of college-radio type bands which are fun to read. (D-12)

★★★★★

THE SPY LYRIC Vol. 2 #4 ($1 (?) from PO Box 6306, Nashua, NH 03061-6306): Music news focused in two directions. The first is straight gossip, with notes on (in)famous people like Lisa Suckdog and Rex Havoc. The second is directed at aspiring musicians, with extensive lists of zines, indie labels, and major label A&R people (with notes on which ones are accepting material). Fun and possibly useful. (T-16t)

★★★★★

STAMMER #1 ($1.75 from PO Box 1408, Stn. A, London, ONT, N6A 5M2, CANADA): A new zine of experimental media. There's a charming story about someone warped by D&D, told in words and photos, a page with a "magic pouch" full of surprises taped to it, and another with pop-up eyes. Comic art, short stories, and photography combine to give a fractured view of the world from the edge. (S-24)

★★★★★

STANZINE Vol. 1 ($1 from Yessir Comics, 1408 Greendale Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15239): Most of this comics zine is not exceedingly funny. Stanley has a sort of primitive style and a preoccupation with long, almost shaggy-dog stories, as well as comics without a plot. But the back cover manages to bring a few chuckles with its tragic tale of jock itch. Strange. (D-16)

★★★★★

STARLIGHT Time of Frost 1989 ($8/4 issues from PO Box 452, 00101 Helsinki, FINLAND): A pagan journal working with authentic Northern European traditions (and occasionally correcting others who get them wrong).

Photo by Chuck Woodbury somewhere in Nevada

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They're working on inventing a new system of divination and are active in recovering and reclaiming various bits of their own history. Recently they have also come out with a sticker showing a priestess from a New Stone Age rock carving, which they'd probably send you a batch of for $1. (A5-32)

★★★★★

STAR ROUTE JOURNAL Vol. 7 #9-10 ($10/yr from PO Box 1451, Redway, CA 95560-1451): A fine collection of fiction, action, poetry and letters from one of the spots where the hippie ethic still hangs on, at least to some extent. #9 has a fine essay by Jentri Anders called "Offing the Patriarchy", plus more poems than usual. #10 has a scary story of an encounter with the local anti-drug Secret Police, who sound well suited for work in a military dictatorship. (S-20t)

★★★★★

STAR*TECH Vol. 3 #5 ($2.50 from PO Box 26599, Tempe, AZ 85285-6599): "The *Real* Cosmic Connection", this one looks at astrology with some reasonably hefty statistics as well as anecdotal evidence. They are very good at checking up on the latest computer software, and at presenting current research results and new ideas. It's almost enough to make me think there might be something there. (S-20t)

★★★★★

STEPPINGSTONE #21 ($15/yr from Baby Faze Productions, PO Box 4264, San Francisco, CA 94101): A music zine that depends on publicity handouts from labels to survive. Indeed, this zine is composed entirely of reprinted PR. Now, I get enough of that stuff in the mail already, but if you're not a zine editor, you might possibly find some of it amusing once or twice. (D-28)

★★★★★

THE STERLING WEB Vol. 1 #2 ($5.50 from Arachnid Publishing, PO Box 38383, Tallahassee, FL 32315): A literary zine of the fantastic, with excursions sideways into fantasy, horror and even mystery genres. They put together a mix of fiction and poetry (together with a column on dreams) and while there aren;t any showstoppers in this issue, there is good writing, notably from Lenora Rogers and Glenn Haya. There's something charming about this one, with stories that don't seem like they could easily fit into more strictly-specific zines. (S-69)

★★★★★

STORIES FROM THE WINDOW #1 ($1 from Jay Curkendall, 741 N. Branciforte, Santa Cruz, CA 95060): A new zine of short stories and less classifiable writings. Most of these pieces seem to focus on personality rather than plot, with Jay's "Sarah's Dream" one of the most moving.. There's an undertone of horror and shock here as well. Submissions welcome. (M-24r)

★★★★★

STORM WARNING #12 ($8/yr from VVAW(AI), 4710 University Way NE #1612, Seattle, WA 98105): Another blast from the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (Anti-Imperialist), a body of hardcore disgruntled ex-servicepeople. Right now they're very active in the fight against laws banning flag-burning, and that's what most of this issue is about. (D-20t)

★★★★★

STRANGE BEINGS FROM STOW #2-3 (SASE from PO Box 2143, Stow, OH 44224): More caricatures from the enigmatic Dave, who is also associated with a bunch of other underground projects. With their one-liner captions, these figures remind me a bit of NOTES FROM AMERICA'S LUNCH COUNTERS, but as reprocessed through the Twilight Zone. "Did you ever get bloodstains on your toilet paper?", asks one disturbing panel in #2. (MM-12)

★★★★★

STRANGER MEDIA #1 ($1 from Steven Ahlquist, 511 Warwick Ave., Warwick, RI 02888): A collection of writings from the fringes of the modern world. Ahlquist presents an English to Nadsat (CLOCKWORK ORANGE) Dictionary, together with a translation of Genesis 6 into Nadsat. Then he explores the Diamond Necklace Affair) one of the major blows against the French monarchy) and Cagliostro's involvement in it. There's reprinted conspiracy theory about the Illuminati, a selection of posters, television criticism, and a closing comic from Joe E. (D-44r)

★★★★★

STRANJER ZINE #9 ($1.50 from Eric Szantai, 15 Van Saun Dr., Trenton, NJ 08628): Music coverage that stretches from coast to coast, since Eric has some California and Oregon bands in this issue. Interviews include Crucial Youth, Death Ride 69, The Cause and Coffin Break. There's also a whole mess of album and show reviews. This one has been around long enough to know what it's doing, and brings opinions on all sorts of new music. (S-28t)

★★★★★

STREET TIMES #19 ($1 (?) from Outside In, 1236 SW Salmon St., Portland, OR 97205): This one is written by street kids for street kids (and others), as part of the Youth Employment Program News & Speakers Bureau, which aims to give the kids job skills and get them off the street. It's a mix of cautionary tales and success stories, together with bits of poetry and opinion. (S-8)

★★★★★

STRESSED OUT #9 ($1 or so from Pauline Poisonous, 151 Arlington Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32114): Music and stuff from Daytona. I don't know how many they printed but it must have been a lot of work to paste in the pop-up centerfolds; give them credit for a fanzine first. Interview-wise, Scream is the main attraction here. There's also a lot of cool short stories and artwork, in the punkture mode. A fine mix. (HL-24r)

★★★★★

STUFF #18 ($1.50 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): Comics and humor from Brad Foster and company. There's some wickedly funny stuff in here, including the ad from little Raoul who has muscular dystrophy, the prom story by Denver Tucson, and Howie the Hat's idea of a perfect breakfast. Pocket-sized fun. (M-20t)

★★★★★

THE SUBTLE JOURNAL OF RAW COINAGE #24-26 (50¢ from Geof Huth, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): Geof continues to collect newords in this "monthly aglossary of the becoming tongue". #24 is a folded card with 4 short miscellaneous words; #25 is an inter-office memo with unpronounceable monstrosities; and #26 features a handful of medically-oriented words contributed by Maurice Forrester III. James Joyce fans would love this. (various)

★★★★★

SUBWAY #1 ($1 (?) from Ethan Michaels, 254 Porter College, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA 95064): A new zine of comics and ranting. There are wild little short stories here about people who are deeply disturbed, and comics noir about college kids and the life they lead—not campus stuff, just the nitty gritty of getting drunk and hanging out. Plus there's a sort of ode to the indie press. I liked this. (D-20)

★★★★★

SUCCESSFUL MAGAZINE PUBLISHING Sept./Oct. 1989 ($5 from PO Box 2029, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403): A support magazine for folks putting out small magazines—which is not the same as small press. If you have a circulation of 20,000 or more, print color on slick paper, or consider your zine as a serious business, this might be for you. Even smaller folks might get a few ideas from the ads. Amusingly enough, THRASHER gets a blurb in this issue. (S-68t)

★★★★★

SUDS 'N' STUFF Vol. 6 #9 ($10/12 issues from BDI, PO Box 566402, Oceanside, CA 92056): The newsletter of Beer Drinkers International, a group of fans of the brewing art. Every issue has some promo item attached; this time it's a pin for Xingu, a new black beer from Brazil. They review various beers and print short tales of pubs and brewing as well as beer-using recipes. (S-8t)

★★★★★

SUGAO #1 ($2 from Max, 2-289 Sekiya-honson-cho, Niigata-shi, 951, JAPAN): Max used to put out YOUNG ANARCHIST, but somehow he's ended up in Japan. In addition to the anarchist content, he now has stories of living in a new land, music and zine reviews,social action, and White Boy poetry. Plus there's a flyer for an international anarchist grouping and a page in Spanish (as well as some Kanji) to help the cosmopolitan flavor. (M-36)

★★★★★

A SUITABLE JOB FOR A WOMAN #10 ($1.50 from Sharon Rose, 203 Talley Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37411): A forum to discuss mystery novels by or featuring women. It's entirely reader-written, functioning in some respects like an apa, although Sharon puts things all together in one typeface. Reviews, discussions of plots and devices, complaints about silliness in published work, and interactions between readers are the mainstays here. (S-11t)

★★★★★

SURREALIST LITERARY FACTION #2 (SASE from Terata Publications, PO Box 810, Hawthorne, CA 90251): A collection of short stories and poems in a surrealist vein. This time I especially liked the stories from Jonathan Falk and Lord Dunsany (the latter a reprint, I presume). Both put mythical figures into rather pedestrian situations with excellent results. (L-1r)

★★★★★

THE SWEET RIDE #13 (50¢ from Legal Hassle Publications, 1320 W. 116th St. #9, Cleveland, OH 44102): This zine is now on its third incarnation, with Ridge Ridgewood taking over the editorial chores from Peter Mantis. Inside we find movie criticism, musings on rock and roll, notes on keeping an address book, music and random vignettes. They're asking for lists of top ten movies to be compiled into an all-time top 100 list at some time in the future. (D-12r)

★★★★★

TALKIN' 'BOUT MY GENERATION (*Trade ONLY* from Lynn Hansen, POI Box 59681, Homewood, AL 35259): A short cartoon epigraph for the Woodstock Generation, whose tombstone is presented here along with bits of chat from Abbie and others. The artist seems to be more than a mite disillusioned. (M-8)

★★★★★

TAP #92-94 (One stamp from PO Box 20264, Louisville, KY 40220): I believe the original TAP—a prime newsletter for phone phreaks and hackers—was out of business by the time FF started. Now it's back under new management, once again printing articles on all manner of cheery things: shoplifting detection technologies, how to take the postmarks off your stamps, and explosives to make at home are a few of the topics here. Not too deep yet, but seems to have a lot of energy and the chutzpah to pass on more info in the future. (S-6)

★★★★★

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TAPE UPDATE #11-12 (50¢ from Brian Tramel, 1806 Self Cir. #B, Jonesboro, AR 72401): Brian is apparently a wrestling fan, for the primary purpose of this zine is to make available videotaped wrestling matches for about $10 a throw. He's got hundreds in stock, and is adding more all the time. Besides descriptions of tapes he publishes zine reviews and a bit of wrestling news. (M-12r)

★★★★★

TARANAKI UNDERGROUND #18 (NZ$24.80/4 issues from F.I.T.O. Press, PO Box 39, Oakura, Taranaki, NEW ZEALAND): A feisty large-format anarchist paper with a bright green cover on this issue. They're real hot on election resistance, and also try to foster people helping people. Some good satire here, including the fundraising letter for the North/Barbie Defense Committee. There's plenty of hard to find news here, and articles on topics from bugging devices to the NZ dairy industry's trade with South Africa. (O-10)

★★★★★

TASTE THE FLOOR #6 ($1 from PO Box 936, Astor Stn., Boston, MA 02215): A music zine that believes in using its space; there's not a lot here besides words. Well, the lead interview with Blake Babies does have a couple photos of the band, who also have interesting things to say. Then there's a chat with The Ocean Blue and some record (including mainstream) and show reviews. (S-11r)

★★★★★

TATTOOED PAPER COMIX #1 ($50 & Age Statement from B.N. Duncan, c/o BEFP, 2425 College Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704): A classic "Nuwave" comic from 1982 (the only issue of this title) which Duncan has a few copies left to sell. The cover has a lovely multicolored rhinocerous on it, and inside there are any number of drawings and comics from the scene in Berkeley and environs. This includes some very early Ace Backwords stuff and a number of sexually-oriented drawings. (S-88)

★★★★★

TAYSHAS BIOREGIONALIST NETWORK Vol. 1 #4 ($5/yr from Heidi M. Wittenborn, 12713 Timberside Dr., Austin, TX 78727): A short newsletter with both Green and spiritual flavors. They seem to be promoting an almost mystical sense of bioregionalism, based on seeing humans in the context of larger miraculous systems. Besides theory articles, there's poetry and reports from recent events. (S-8)

★★★★★

TECHNO BODY WAY COMIX MAGAZINE #4 (Enrico Aresu, Via Nazionale, 40, 95040 Piano Tavola, Catania, ITALY): A collection of comics, collages and mail art flotsam and jetsam. A few of these are purely visual, but most require appreciation of Italian for their full impact. It looks like most of the contributors are Italian as well, rather than more widely-flung in the network. If this were a US zine, I'd say about two bucks; maybe a small handful of IRCs would do. (A4-22)

★★★★★

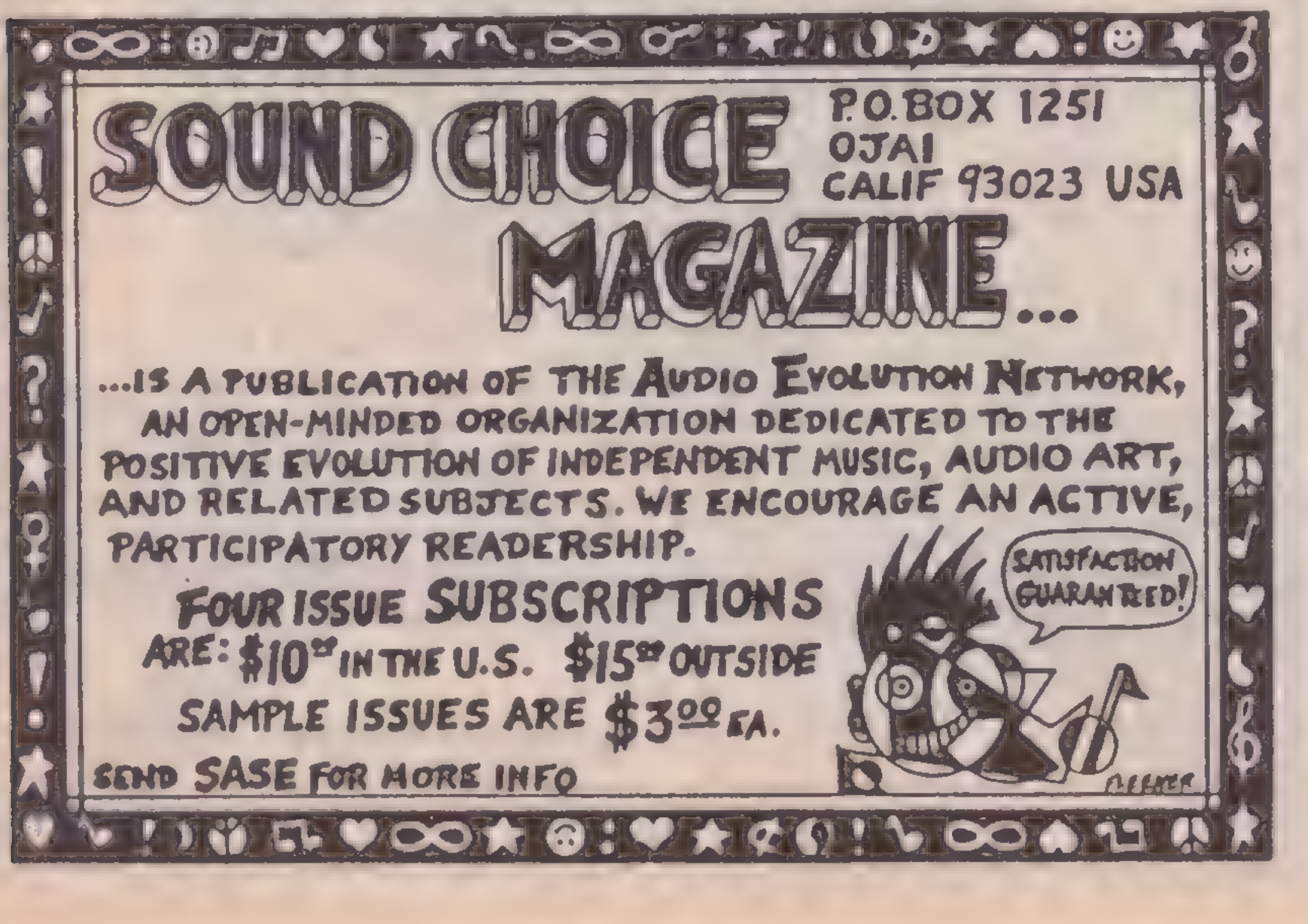
TEENAGE GANG DEBS #1 ($1 (?) from Erin Smith, 5812 Midhill St., Bethesda, MD 20817): A tribute of sorts to television culture. There's a two-page spread of appreciation for Patty Duke, an article reminiscing on the wonders of Viewmaster, and some fractured answers to reader's queries. The lost Brady cousin gets a page of his own, and Bea Arthur mysteriously appears in several pages. Strange. (S-16)

★★★★★

TEJAS VERDE Vol. 2 #2 ($5/yr from Green Publications, 6301 Gaston #344, Dallas, TX 75214): A grassroots Green publication. This issue is largely devoted to reporting the recent Green national conference, from a different point of view than that I'd seen before. They also discuss local actions. (S-8)

★★★★★

TERRARIA THE BEAUTIFUL ($1.50 from Jon Lewis, 1420 E. Como Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55117): A collection of rather bizarre comics, some of which even sort of make sense. I especially liked the one presenting results of research on the connection between yeast, vampires, and Jesus Christ. There's also a fun bit with a smoke detector as a central character. Definitely looking at reality from a new angle. Comes with a hand-colored partly 3D cover. (D-32)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★★★★★

THE TEXAS OASIS Oct. 1989 (Donation from PO Box 7292, Austin, TX 78713): This is the newsletter of the Texas wing of the Earth First! movement. From what some folks are writing here, many of them are getting fed up with legislative action and civil disobedience, since they're not getting results—so watch for ecoteurs in Texas. There's some reportage on the Round River Rendezvous and some on harassing H. Ross Perot. (S-10t)

★★★★★

THANG! #9 ($1 from Mike Robbins, 185 Winthrop Rd. #1, Brookline, MA 02146): Thoughtful coverage of some of the major forces on the independent music scene. Mike reviews albums at somewhat greater length than most of us quick-slam artists, and the feel of the music comes across in what he writes. Buffalo Tom and Giant Sand are the interviews, and there's also some interesting editorial ruminations on the art of reviewing. (S-20t)

★★★★★

T.H.C. #3 ($1 (?) from 2217 Highland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916): Those initials stand alternately for Tennessee Hard Copy and Tennessee Halfpipe Company—as the latter will tell some of you, this is a skateboarding zine, in fact all skating with no music content. Full of arcane jargon ("bside ollie hip transfer"?) and rather dark photos, it chronicles several competitions and rates places to skate in the South. (HL-16r)

★★★★★

THIS MONTH IN MAINE LITERATURE Sept.-Oct. 1989 ($20/yr from MWPA, 19D Mason St., Brunswick, ME 04011): The tabloid of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, a group devoted to promoting good writing in that state. Besides the news and reviews here, membership gets you discounts on a wide variety of titles from Maine authors. They print occasional how-to articles as well. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THIS STRANGE EFFECT #1 (SASE from Box 115, 2718 SW Kelly #C, Portland, OR 97201): A new zine for lovers of the Kinks, or anyone else who wants to rave about good music, I guess. Editor John starts it off with a review of a bootleg Kinks concert tape, and offers to swap tapes with other interested folks. (D-8)

★★★★★

THIS ZINE SUCKS #17 ($1 from PO Box 7952, W. Trenton, NJ 08628): Music coverage from a zine that maintains a commitment to smaller bands (in terms of music and show reviews) at the same time their interviews climb the heights of college radio faves. This time they talk to Band of Susans, Bullet LaVolta, Sick of It All, Die Kreuzen, and more. There's also about three pages of zine reviews and some comics tucked away in the back. The best issue yet. (S-26r)

★★★★★

THE THOUGHT Vol. 9 #9 ($1 from Philosophers Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): This one is a mix of libertarian philosophy, prison abolition, criticism of the educational structure, ranting, and other diversions. Bob Black tackles the nuclear freezers in this issue, while Neal Wilgus provides a report on Abbie Hoffman's arrival at Heaven. (S-22)

★★★★★

THE THUNDER & LIGHTNING SHOW #4 (50¢ from David lee Ingersoll, PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402): An exceedingly strange minicomic which appears whenever David manages to think of something confusing enough. This time it's a door on top of a hill which opens into alien worlds—or maybe it doesn't. The matter is left in doubt, as is this reviewer. (M-8)

★★★★★

THUNDERBOW II #3 ($15/yr from PO Box 185, Wheatridge, CO 80034-0185): A networking journal for pagans and others. In addition to short news bits, they feature regular columns on various esoteric subjects. They also track geological news, feeling a close kinship to the earth, and report on the activities of their parent group, the Church of Seven Arrows. There's not too much in any one issue, but their track record is good, and this will add up to an interesting index shortly. (S-6r)

★★★★★

THUNDER SLAM Vol. 1 #1 (SASE from Nonoxynol-9, PO Box 7792, Rego Park, NY 11374): A new wrestling newsletter, formerly **WWF SOCIETY** The main article in this issue is a match-by-match description of Summer Slam '89. They also feature comics and drawings of various wrestlers. (D-8r)

★★★★★

TICKET Vol. 1 #2 (SASE from 2108A Jefferson Park Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903): A single-sheet essay or rant about some topic concerning the electronic media. #2 looks at the relatively new phenomenon of the simulation of the news, using this as a springboard to consider just what news is anyhow. (S-2t)

★★★★★

TIME FILE (50¢ from William Dockery, 2108 15th Ave., Phenix City, AL 36867): More cluttered (though not as badly as **DEMON HOUSE THEATER**) minicomics from Dockery. This stuff seems to be based on some of the metaphysical speculations of PD Wilson, though frankly with the small panels and the disjointed story line I really can't tell what the heck is supposed to be happening here. (M-16)

★★★★★

TINA San Francisco Earthquake Issue ($1 *CASH/stamps/food stamp/postal MO* from Osiris Ranebo, 1012 Pike St. NE, Auburn, WA 98002-3508): This is the newsletter of the Church of Tina Chopp, whoever she may be. This issue explains that the SF earthquake was directed by Tina against jocks. It also talks of drugs, Tina's creation of Jesus Christ, and vegetarian cooking. A new and bizarre faith. (D-20t)

★★★★★

TOAD HIWAY #2 ($2 from Doug Martin, PO Box 44, Universal, IN 47884): A new litmag with striking cover photography and some interesting and exciting work inside. M. Deeds contributes a poetic look at exercise as sublimation, while Ronald Edward Kittell takes masturbation as his subject. Marred mainly by an incredibly bad script dot-matrix typeface. (D_20)

★★★★★

TOASTER MAN COMICS #1-2 (50¢ from Kurt Beaulieu, 4230 Pierre de Coubertin #5, Montreal, QC, H1V 1A4, CANADA): Toaster man is a superhero, victim of a freak accident with an atomic toaster. Now he incorporates the machine into his body, giving him strange powers—as only his accountant knows. Very curious. (M-8)

★★★★★

TOO FAR #8 (75¢ from Adrienne, 163 Montecito #A, Oakland, CA 94610): Sort of a punk feminist zine, from someone involved in the alternative community and focused on women's issues. This time there's a chat with Henry Rollins about his view of the world and of women (an extended version of this is available separately for 50¢), a first-person account of rape (scary stuff) and talk about the objectification of the female body and the pain it involves to look "beautiful". Always thoughtful, caring, and worth reading. (D-24)

★★★★★

TOUCHPOINT Vol. 2 #4 ($4 from Stanfield Major II, PO Box 355, McVeytown, PA 17051): This one is pushing up towards 100 ads from people who are dissatisfied with monogamy and looking for others in the same boat. Not a "swingers" publication, TOUCHPOINT is aimed at serious folks who want to build extended and expanded families. Listings are $5; write for details. (S-10)

★★★★★

TOXIC YUPPIE DEATH #2/3 ($2 from PO Box 19513, Cincinnati, OH 45219-0513): A double issue of ranting, music, disgusting comics (a Nightmare on Elm Street parody that the feminists will hate), chopped up ads, and general mayhem. There's a chat with Pop Will Eat Itself, what appears to be a cut-up interview with Sockeye, and a portfolio of Gary Wray artwork here. (S-32)

★★★★★

THE TRADE MAFIA #3 ($3 from Drew Fredrick, 711 E. Alton, Appleton, WI 54911): This one is a music zine for the metalheads. It's mostly interviews, with bands like M.O.D., Slave Raider, The Cause, Defcon, and lots more. There are also reviews of a few dozen demos and about 70 ads from people wanting to trade records and tapes. Packed with stuff, with very little white space. (S-68t)

★★★★★

TRADING POST #4/5 (25¢ from Chris Caggiano, 1737 Grove St. #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385): A meeting place for those into trading records and tapes, or at least copies of records and tapes. Chris is willing to print trade lists from just about anybody. Most of the things here tend towards punk. (D_20)

★★★★★

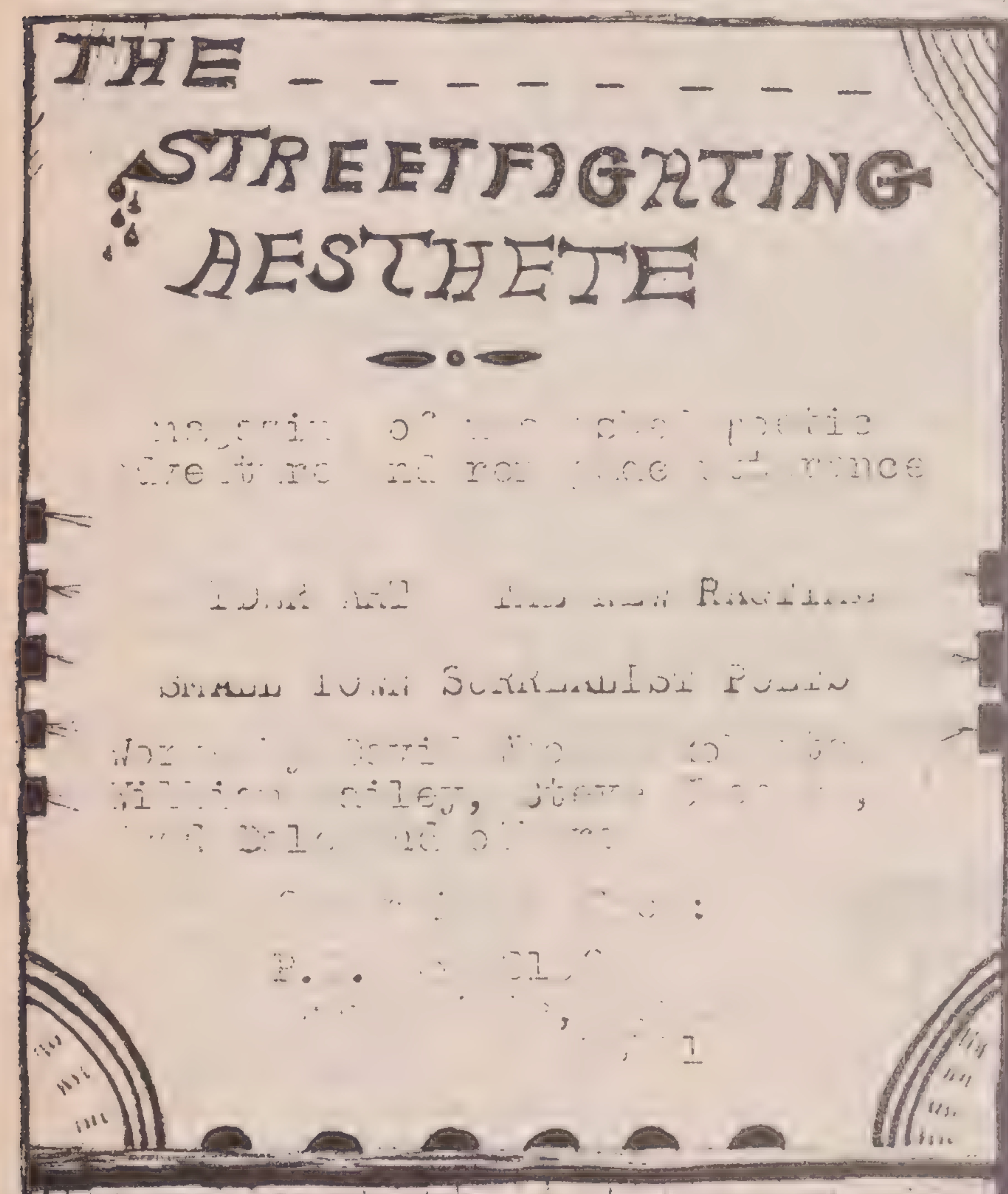
TRANSITIONS ABROAD Nov./Dec. 1989 ($4.50 from 18 Hulst Rd. Box 344, Amherst, MA 01004): This is for people who want to travel, not as tourists, but as participants in the culture of their host country. College, working or just plain living abroad are all given consideration, and they list dozens of resources for the budget-minded explorer and the socially conscious traveler. This issue focuses on opportunities in Central America. (S-62t)

★★★★★

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 15 #2 ($10/4 issues from Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneva 16, SWITZERLAND): A thrice-yearly journal dedicated to exploring and promoting the "politics of transformation", by which the world is becoming a better and more civilized place. This issue's theme is "Legal Structure for Peace". It looks at the World Court, the basic principles of international law, the UN peacekeeping forces, and other means to settle disputes between nations, with some suggestions on how things could be improved. There are also book and cassette reviews. (A4-48t)

★★★★★

TRAVEL VIEW ONE Oct./Nov./Dec. 1989 ($4 from Linda Yurkoski, PO Box 866, Penticton, BC, V2A 7G1, CANADA): A pen-pal newsletter with listings from around the world. In addition, they publish stories, poems and



SACRED RAGE
S
A
D.T.R.

other writings from subscribers, giving a brief view into other cultures and lives. (S-10)

* * *

TREETOP PANORAMA Fall 1989 ($3 from RR1, Box 160, Payson, IL 62360): Editor Jared Scarborough is making this into a forum for new ideas directed at big problems. While I find some (such as the anonymous reader's suggestions for a real war on drugs in this issue) naive or reprehensible, overall they are at least thought-provoking, and the very act of encouraging thinking is unusual. An incubator for possible solutions as well as a retreat into a quieter part of the country. (S-16r)

* * *

THE TRIANGLE COMIC REVIEW 10/11/89-10/25/89 ($16/yr from PO Box 910, Carrboro, NC 27510-0910): A fortnightly collection of comics and humor, political and otherwise. They pick up a batch of syndicated stuff, including The Straight Dope and Joe Bob Briggs, and cartoons including Sylvia and Ernie Pook's Comeek. The political coverage is pretty even-handed, with a sampling of opinion bits from around the country. Lots to enjoy and chuckle at here. (T-28t)

* * *

TRIBAL NOTES Sept.-Nov. 1989 (Donation, "plus something short by or about the donator: from Clif Bennett, RR2, Hawkestone, ONT, L0L 1T0, CANADA): Clif has been wandering through the underground or the resistance or The Movement or whatever the currently fashionable term is for quite a while. Now he writes of people he knows, things they've done, new ideas that catch his eye (Mandelbrot sets and chaos in the September issue), and so on. Together with chess patzing and letters from readers this makes for an interesting batch of pages. (S-10t)

* * *

TRUCK PRICES 1989-90 Annual ($3.95 from Krause Publications, PO Box 700,Iola, WI 54945): This one opens with a few articles on particular restored trucks or whole families of classic trucks (like the Ford F-100 series), but then gets quickly into the heart of the matter: prices. They give prices for pickups, panel trucks and vans, all models, from 1896 to 1986, graded into five classes from "Excellent" down to "Restorable". The emphasis is on collectible vehicles, but this can also serve as a guide to anyone who's looking for a used truck for utility work. (S-146t)

* * *

TRUE TALES #1-2 ((1 stamp from No Joke Publications, PO Box 50454, Austin, TX 78763-0454): A pair of minicomics featuring real events and nightmares of the author, who also put out **RUBBER PUPPY**. #1 is about a set of childhood problems and mistreatment at the hands of parents. #2 is stranger, a multi-layered nightmare. (M-16)

* * *

TRUMPET Vol. III #3 ($$2.50 from National Research Institute, 3005 C S. Peoria, Aurora, CO 80014): The NRI says "Our objective is to provide information about the dangerous mushrooming New Age Movement." It appears to be pretty much a one-woman show, run by editor Kathleen Hayes. They condemn everyone from the Club of Rome to John Denver, writing in a frankly McCarthyite manner. I'm sorry to see people running so scared from love. (T-8t)

* * *

THE TRUTH SEEKER July/Aug. 1989 ($3 from PO Box 2832, San Deigo, CA 92112-2832): This is the current version of a long-running freethought magazine, although some dispute the lineage (see next review). This special issue takes a long, hard look at circumcision from the opposing point of view, arguing that there is no good medical reason for the procedure and good human rights reasons to avoid it. Somewhat gruesome in its discussion of genital mutilation but full of medical and legal experts. (S-56t)

* * *

THE TRUTH SEEKER NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #4 (Donation from 7215 Cameron Rd., Austin, TX 78752-2973): This is a tangled web, so follow closely. James Hervey Johnson published **THE TRUTH SEEKER**, an erratic atheist and racist magazine, until his death, accumulating about $17 million on the way. He left his estate to a bank trustee, who happens to be Episcopalian, to carry on his work. Madalyn Murray O'Hair and the American Atheist organization are appalled at this, and trying to get the money turned over to atheist groups. This is the newsletter from the insurgent O'Hair faction, reporting on misuse of funds by the current trustee and pleading for help in fighting the legal battle. All clear? Good. (S-8t)

* * *

TSCHERNOBILLY #1 ($2 *CASH* from Martin Pick, Postfach 10 08 12, 5600 Wuppertal 1, WEST GERMANY): Recently converted to English after 8 issues in German, this music zine retains its local flavor with articles mainly on German bands rather than US ones, although the NYC band Wench does get a few pages. There's lots about the Wuppertal scene, plus some political content, from modern anarchy to an article on the concentration camps. (A5-40r)

* * *

TURD #1 (25¢ from PO Box 12214, Gainesville, FL 32604): A low-budget zine that seems obsessed with sex, and seems to find ideas like homosexuality or exploitation screamingly funny. I dunno, maybe I just don't have any sense of humor, but this all falls pretty flat for me. It's not hardcore stuff, just the sort of innuendo and silliness you may remember from locker room days. The band interview with Gay Youth sets the pace. (D-12r)

* * *

TWISTED IMAGE NEWSLETTER #12 ($1 from 1630 University Ave. #26, Berkeley, CA 94703): The demand for Ace Backwords' comic strip "Twisted Image" is so high that he's now making them available in this handy forum to anyone with a buck. He also includes bits of news (some of the latest on the Bob Z. postering case in this issue) and music reviews he's written for other publications. (S-8)

* * *

TWO-FISTED FUCK BEAST #3 (SASE from Greg Petix, 1323 N. Norton, Tucson, AZ 85719): A curious zine of comics and writing. Greg has a short story, vignette really, about a nutty childhood friend on the back of this issue. Inside is a sort of apocalyptic comic, made by taking art from a batch of people and combining them with twisted words. (D-4r)

* * *

TYG Vol. V #9/10 ($1 from Paul Gardener, PO Box 97, Brattleboro, VT 05301): Actually published in the UK but with a US agent to help us colonials get copies, this is a very solid Diplomacy zine. It includes reviews of variants, proposed strategies, comments on current games being run in other zines, and even a few extras like a bridge column. Not the highest production values, but certainly a lot of gaming news for the money. (A5-36r)

* * *

UFO Vol. 4 #4($4 from 1800 S. Robertson Blvd. #355, Los Angeles, CA 90035): This one looks good, with slick covers and a nice interior design. And it has some high points, like the interview with John Keel. But the flake factor here is very high, with some credence being given to all sorts of wild rumors and ridiculous photographs. They try to be objective, but sometimes it seems like they have no idea what the word really means. (S-48t)

* * *

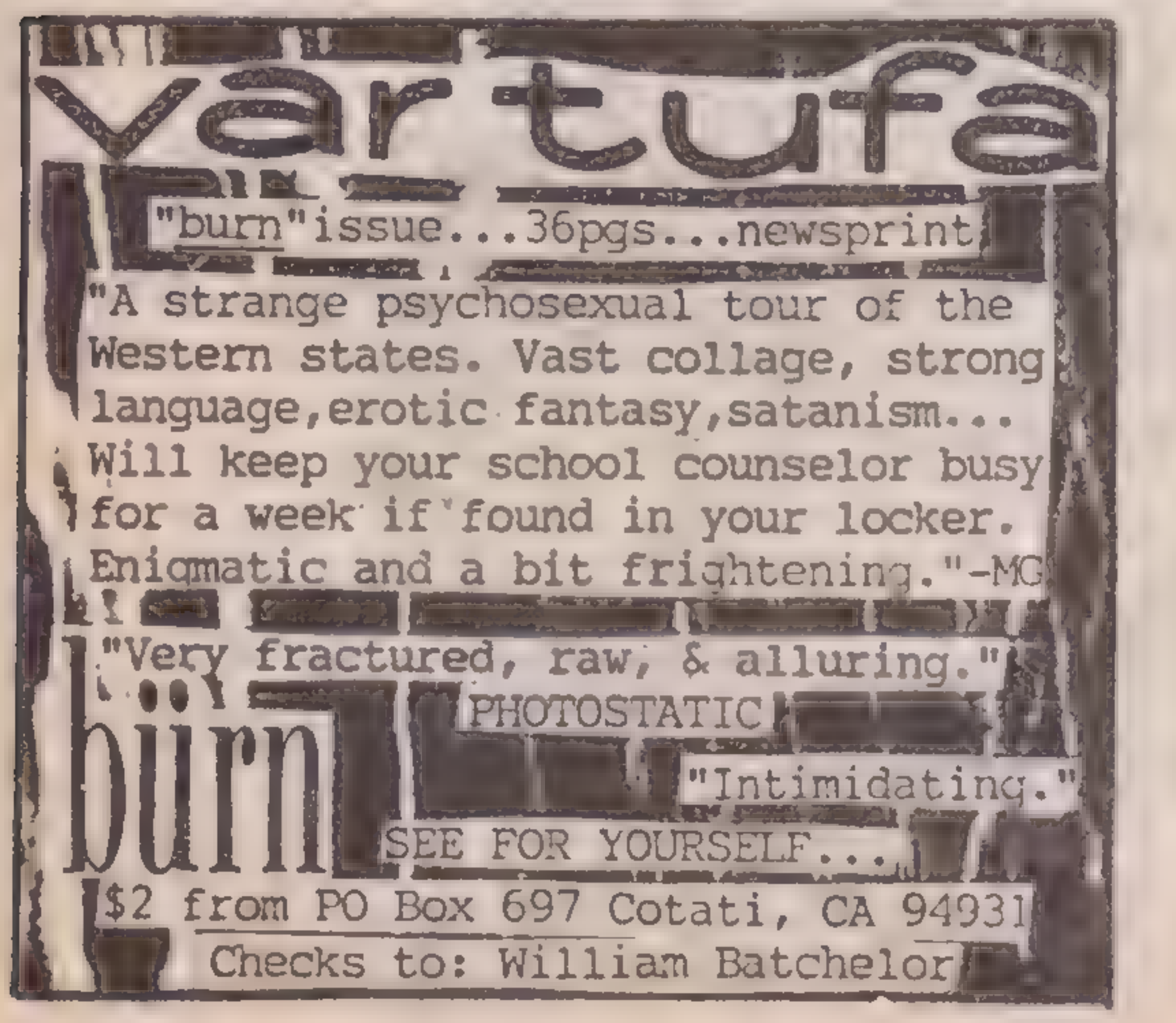
UGLY #1 ($3 from Xex Graphix, PO Box 240611, Memphis, TN 38124): A limited edition collection of some of Bob X's works, with a signed and numbered and rubber-stamped inside front cover. This is by and large less aggressively offensive than many of his other stuff, and might be a good introduction for those unsure of whether they enjoy the shock comic art genre—though there is still a full quota of nudity, violence, gore and deranged heads. (D-20)

* * *

UGLY AMERICAN #4 ($3 from Greg Chapman, PO Box 8433, Red Bank, NJ 07701): No frills here: live reviews, interviews and recorded music reviews, all slammed together with almost no pictures. But the writing is great, so it doesn't matter. I don't know how they do it, but the live reviews in particular are 130% better here than in most other zines, actually saying something more than "We went to a concert, wow". Interviews in #4 include Suckdog, Dwarves, Stripminers and My Bloody Valentine. (S-74)

* * *

UNBROKEN CHAIN #27 ($5/3 issues from PO Box 8726, Richmond, VA 23226): A newsletter for Grateful Dead fans that concentrates on set lists,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PHOTOSTATIC
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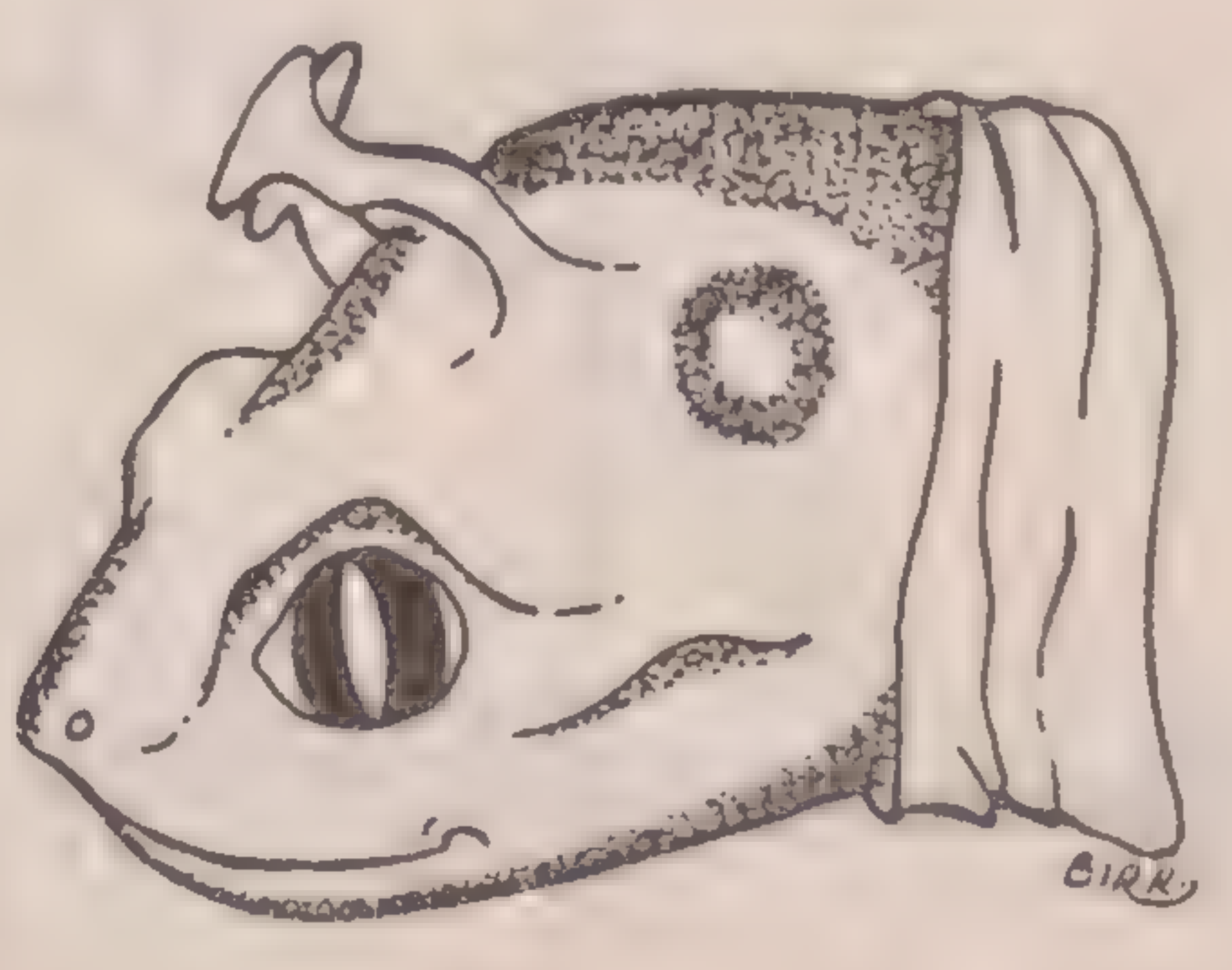

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tour dates, and similar news. This issue reports on the "no camping, no vending" policy for the current tour and has much cautionary material on drug sales, including letters from some Deadheads now doing prison time for getting caught. (S-12r)

★★★★★

THE UNDERGROUND FOREST/LA SELVA SUBTERRANEA #7 ($12/yr from 21 Forest Ave., Portland, ME 04101): A journal which links the Americas together in complete bilinguality, presenting every piece in both English and Spanish. There's a heavy ecological component to this issue, with stuff on ecotage and a listing of toxic wastes by country. There's also an essay on oral history, notes on the proposed Nicaraguan canal, and an excellent review of small magazines from the Andes. (O-48t)

★★★★★

UNGAWA! #1 ($5 [cash preferred] from PO Box 1764, London NW6 2EQ, ENGLAND): That price includes air mail postage for this new slick-covered celebration of "the flea-ridden, the cheap and the scummy", mainly among movies but flaring out to books and records as well. This issue includes a Jess Franco interview, a look at some Russ Meyer films, and an interview with Rudy Ray Moore. There are plenty of pics and film reviews, and the overall look is quite sharp. (A4-32t)

★★★★★

UNHINGED #4 (£1.90 from Paul, The Old Schoolhouse, Yatesbury, nr. Caine, Wilts. SN11 8YE, ENGLAND): Open this music zine up and out comes a free comic and two flexidiscs (one each from Merrell and the Exiles and Simon Baughan and the Extremists). Even after that there's plenty left in their coverage of classic rock and its modern offshoots. Groups this time around include Eat, Giant Sand, Barbara Manning and of course the folks on flexis. Plenty packed in here, including a centerfols of reviews requiring a magnifier. Good job. (A4-32r)

★★★★★

THE UNICORN Vol. XII #8-Vol. XIII #1 ($10/yr from The Rowan Tree Church, PO Box 5514, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A Wiccan newsletter with a higher than average proportion of artistic and literary pages. They also publish short reviews, a quick networking section, and notes on things like Tarot Card use. Usually gentle, caring, and upbeat. #1 features a full page of reviews of new books of interest. (S-10t)

★★★★★

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. VIII #9-10 ($3 from PO Box 11691, Milwaukee, WI 53211): A leading journal of what they're now calling the Freedom Movement. This includes a lot of obscure legal theories designed to prove that the US government is breaking its own rules, as well as dark conspiratorial speculations on the coming New World Order. They also look into suppressed science. Take it with a grain of salt, but there is useful stuff here about the Federal government's constant expansion of powers. (S-24t)

★★★★★

USSR NEWS BRIEF No. 15/16 1989 ($22/yr from Das Land und Die Welt eV, Schwanthalerstrasse 73, 8000 Munchen 2, WEST GERMANY): Information on all the current human rights situations, strikes, near civil wars, and other happenings in the USSR. Yes, you'll read about some of this in the papers, but not as exhaustively as here. Of definite interest to activists and those who just want to figure out what's going on over there. (D-32r)

★★★★★

THE VAJRADHATU SUN Vol. 12 #1 ($18/yr from 1345 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302): A newspaper which keeps track of goings-on among Buddhists in America. Besides plenty of news items, they publish lectures and reviews. This issue has a talk which Abbie Hoffman gave at a Buddhist center and a long reporrt on the Dalai Lama's appearance in Los Angeles. (T-28t)

★★★★★

V.D. CAGE #8-9 ($1 from Scott Stevens, 8220 Research #114B, Austin, TX 78758): Comics featuring Scott's character Mr. Fix, a knife-wielding drug-addled maniac. There's plenty of senseless gore and violence here, as well as plotting best described as surrealistic. Won't appeal to anyone with good taste, but that still leaves a fair number of my readers to go for this. (M-16)

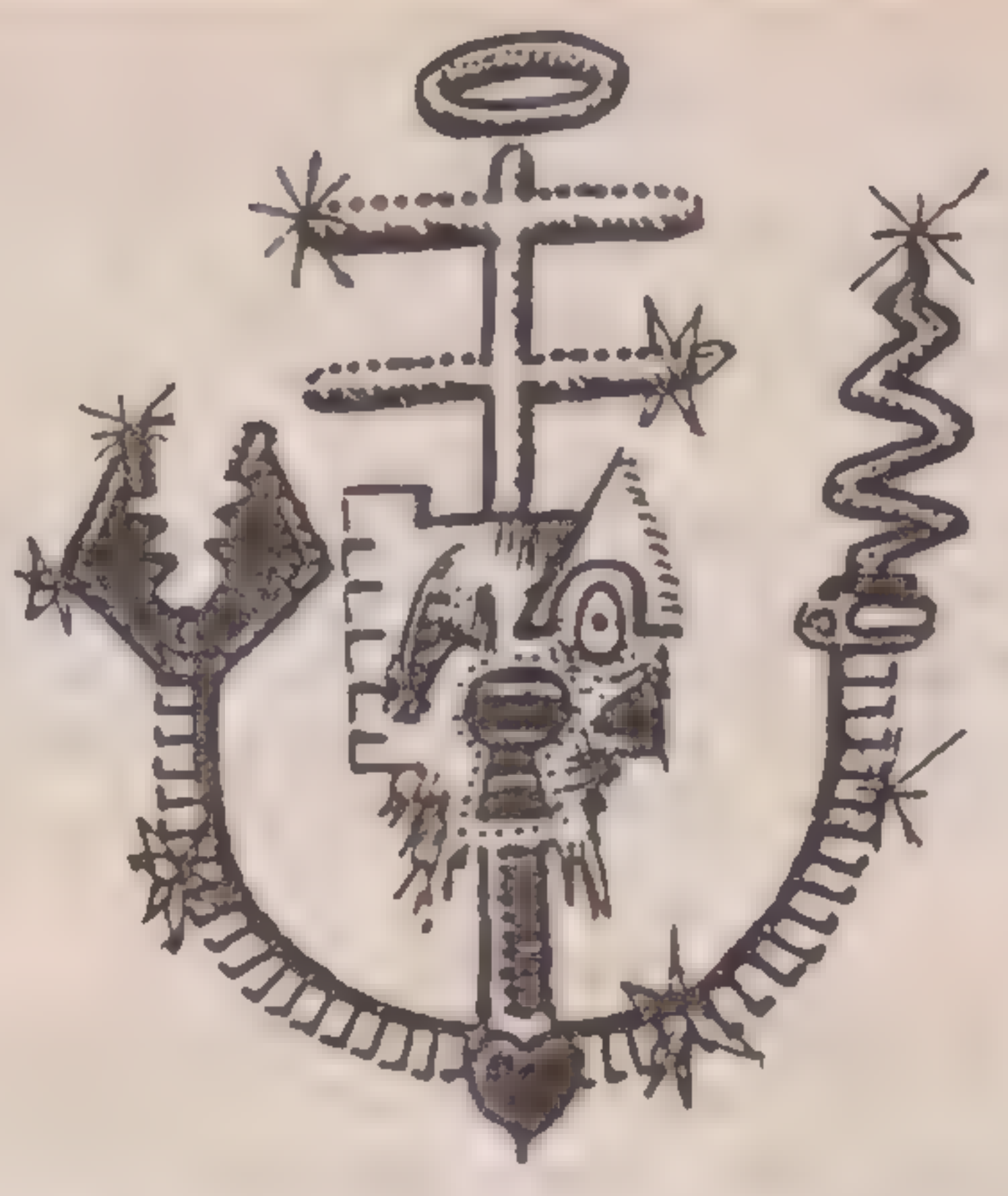
★★★★★

VDT NEWS Vol. VI #5 ($87/6 issues from PO Box 1799, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163): A continuing high-quality review on the health and safety risks of working with computer terminals and other VDTs on a daily basis. They report the latest research on both electromagnetic effects and repetitive strain injuries, in a documented, cautious manner. #5 has their annual directory of suppliers of ergonomic terminals and other useful products. (S-16t)

★★★★★

VETERANS FOR PEACE JOURNAL #11 ($2 from PO Box 3881, Portland, ME 04104): These folks, former participants in warfare, have one simple goal: the abolition of war. There are people all over the globe that feel the same way, and there's a lot of networking going on here. I learned from this issue of the Declaration of the Hague, signed earlier this year by 102 nations, which gives official support to this goal. The U.S., by the way, is not a signatory to this Declaration. (S-16t)

★★★★★



Do you write Strange, Evocative or
Questionable Poetry, Prose, Stories
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Subversive Collages, Take Challenging
Photographs, or Illustrate Shots of Life?

Do you Write Lyrics that cause people to
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VICE VERSA Vol. 4 #3 ($2 from PO Box 10432, Chicago, IL 60610-0432): There's a lot in this litmag, mostly poetry but with a few short stories and some indefinably experimental writings. Pat McKinnon contributes some unique poetry, including "poem for the cancer on ron reagan's nose", while Geof Huth weighs in with some sound poetry. There's also strong pieces from Rupert Wondolewski and Greg Boyd. Fine work. (D-44t)

★★★★★

VICIOUS HIPPIES FROM PANDA HELL #7 (Contribution from Box 115, 2718 SW Kelly #C, Portland, OR 97201): A music zine from the great Northwest, focusing on great Northwest bands. This issue has Uncle Charley and the Kurtz Project, as well as poetry, fanzine and music reviews. And they've joined the list of fine publications banned by the Washington State Pen as well. (D-12t)

★★★★★

VICTORY MUSIC REVIEW Vol. 14 #10 ($15/yr from PO Box 7515, Bonney Lake, WA 98390): These people are into all sorts of alternative music, centered on the area club scene: blues, jazz, women's, folk, children's, ethnic, dance...the list of genres goes on and on. They feature an extensive calendar (and subscribers get discounts at many events), plus reviews of dozens of releases in their area of interest. There's also one featured musician per issue; this time it's harmonicist Jay Mabin. (S-24t)

★★★★★

VIDEO COLLECTOR Vol. 1 #1 ($15/yr from Video SIG, 1030 E. Duane Ave. #C, Sunnyvale, CA 94086): Video SIG sells a lot of instructional, entertainment and just plain unusual videos for $14.95 a pop (see our Video review section for some). With this new magazine they're now providing reviews and suggestions on which to watch, along with features like a Milton Friedman interview dealing with the making of his "Free to Choose" series. (S-46t)

★★★★★

THE VILLAGE NOIZE #8 ($2.50 from 48-54 213 St., Bayside, NY 11364): A music zine that has quite matured in recent issues, as well as branched out. The latter is obvious from the extent of the video reviews here and the lengthy interview (with pictured) with artist Peter Bagge. On the more musical side, we have Sub Pop, Laughing Hyenas, Faith No More, other bands, and a pile of reviews. (S-42t)

★★★★★

VIRGINIA LIBERTY Vol. 5 #5-6 ($10/yr from LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228): A small tabloid for Libertarians in Virginia and elsewhere. They're at their best in tracking local news and politics, while still getting the occasional national story in. It looks like the Virginia LP is having some luck at getting their views aired in more major media as well. (T-4t)

★★★★★

VIRGIN MEAT #9 ($1.50 from 5247 W. L-10, Quartz Hill, CA 93536): A forum for gothic poetry and short short stories. The themes here range from sexual vampiric fantasies to the horror of potatoes. Something for most everyone who likes a shudder now and then, presented in a low-frills format. Apparently pretty open to submissions. (D-24r)

★★★★★

THE VISIONARY #1 ($2 from Ramie Moholman, PO Box 3372, Lantana, FL 33462): A zine of sketchbook excerpts and personal writing. This issue is pretty heavy, since it's mainly journal excerpts from the days before heart valve replacement surgery, but Ramie promises more art and lighter writing in the future. (S-20)

★★★★★

VOICES FROM SPIRIT Vol. 3 #4-5 ($4 from Rev. Speaker Gerald Polley, PO Box 5155, Ellsworth, ME 04605): For some reason the Polleys have chosen #4 to be a special edition of their newsletter, subtitled "A Guide to the Spiritist Path". They explain Spiritist beliefs at some length; it's a sort of New Age religion, at least as a first approximation. Of some concern to many FF readers will be their condemnation of homosexuality. But otherwise, they generally offer light and life. #5 is back to their regular format of short features, including an interview with the spirit of Confucius. (S-8r)

★★★★★

THE VOLUNTARYIST #40-41 ($15/yr from Carl Watner, PO Box 1275, Gramling, SC 29348): Voluntaryists are an offshoot of the libertarian movement, forswearing both electoral and violent revolutionary methods on the way to a free society—defined as one without a state and with a capitalist free market. In #40 Carl offers a synthesis of the principles of voluntaryism and discusses his own differences with the Lobertarians. (S-8t)

★★★★★

VOODOO CHILD #17 ($12/yr from JIMI, PO Box 374, Des Plaines, IL 60016): The newsletter of the Jimi Hendrix Information Management Institute, an organization dedicated to keeping the memory of the guitar great alive and tracking his progress in the world. #17 includes a look at recent CD releases, plus various news notes and of course a list of stuff for sale. (S-6t)

★★★★★

WAGE SLAVE WORLD NEWS Vol. 1 #10-11 ($12/12 issues from PO Box 3511, Madison, WI 53704): The lighter side of radical labor organizing. WSWN is a blast of satire in supermarket tabloid format, with #10 reporting on the discovery of Jimmy Hoffa's body in Reagan's head. There's also a nude and frolicsome Jesse Helms and some anti-boss comics. (S-4)

★★★★★

WAKELEY'S REALISMS (SASE (?) from Joseph Wakeley, 9 Oregon Ave., Palmyra, NJ 08065): A short essay, this time around called "Kids: The Pros and Cons". Wakeley attempts to set out a list of reasons why people have kids, so they'll be more aware of ulterior motives. It's not exactly the world's most gripping essay, I'm afraid. In fact, it seems pretty elementary to me. (S-3)

★★★★★

WAKE UP! #4 (25 fr. from 11 rue Mantelon, 49 100 Angers, FRANCE): That's the cover price of this French-language music zine, so of course send more to get a copy in the States. They feature interviews with and stories on a variety of groups: Fugazi, Full Fathom Five, Died Pretty, les Thugs, and lots more. There's also a section on the appeal of bondage and some underground comics. Comparable in size and professionalism to FLIPSIDE. (A4-64t)

★★★★★

W.A.M.M. Vol. 8 #2 ($30/yr from 3255 Hennepin Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): For that price you get an annual membership in Women Against Military madness, a peace activist and networking group. They are best at keeping track of local events; articles in this newsletter are often a sort of abstract of a more wide-ranging event. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE WASHINGTON REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS Vol. VIII #6-7 ($2 from American Educational Trust, PO Box 53062, Washington, DC 20009): A slick-covered collection of news and opinion about the Mideast. They give space to all voices, but seem to have at least some bias against Israel—or perhaps it just seems that way by contrast with more mainstream media. They also reprint coverage from other sources, review many books, and make a good deal more literature available to those who want to follow up on particular stories. (S-58t)

★★★★★

THE WEEDEATER #3 ($1.50 from USF #3146, Tampa, FL 33620-3146): Wide-open commentary and poetry from (it looks like) anyone who cares to get in touch. They're a voice for parts of the diffuse opposition in this country, expressed in media including poetry, art and words. Local activist news from Florida goes along with notes on the general climate of repression, drug laws, and so on. It's good to see people trying to reach out and get in touch. (S-24)

★★★★★

THE WEIRD NEWS #3 (SASE & Donation from Donald F. Busky, 7393 Rugby St., Philadelphia, PA 19138-1236): "The Word About An Absurd World", this one is made up of news items which any sane person would hope are satirical. The Burger Thing Corporation introduces edible plastic, physics shows the universe to be terminally confused, and Jim Bakker tells all in this issue. (S-3)

★★★★★

WEIRD SMUT COMICS #3 ($3.25 & Age Statement from John A. Mozzer, PO Box 180224, Brooklyn, NY 11218-0003): Sexual comic escapades ranging from allegedly true domination experiences to wild science fiction fantasies. There's plenty of realistic and fantastic action here, with Larry Welz and Spain providing some of the hottest drawing. (S-32)

★★★★★

WENDYSSTOMACK #4 ($1.50 (?) from Greg Evason, 90 Carden St. #115, Guelph, ONT, N1H 3A3, CANADA): A work of art, or concrete poetry, or some damned thing, titled "letter to Paul from jwcurry". The letter is chopped up into phrases on strips of paper, which then become progressively more jumbled, in a series of photocopied snapshots, A small flavor of curry's writing remains, but it's more of an aftertaste than anything else. (L-8)

★★★★★

THE WESTVIEW REVIEW Fall 1989 ($2 (?) from Westview House, 50 S. Willard St., Burlington, VT 05401): The Westview House appears to be some sort of haven for the mentally ill, for it is they who write the poems and stories that grace these pages. The material ranges from deep explorations via the language of poetry to straightforward accounts of being under too much pressure and not being able to take it. Impressive in spots, heartrending in others. (HL-41)

★★★★★

WET PAINT #27 ($2.50 from Jeff Smith, 2106 Tradewind #182, Mesquite, TX 75150): A film zine that this time is largely devoted to the Batman movie. Jeff has asked a whole batch of people for their opinions, and as a result the zine leads off with an extensive "Forum" on the subject. Later on there are some other superheroes, including a look at serials and a failed pilot for a Superboy TV series. (S-20r)

★★★★★

WHATEVER RAMBLINGS #1-2 (50¢ from Alex Swain, 5 Greenview Ave., Princeton, NJ 08540): The title is pretty descriptive of this zine. Alex is 17 and into music, as becomes clear in the first few pages, and in a band (whose other members get to mouth off in #2). Pretty interesting reading, actually; nice to see this sort of introspection going on. (S-8)

★★★★★

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT #6 ($3 from Alan Blaustein, 89 E. 3rd St. #5C, New York, NY 10003): A literary zine that seems to be skating on the thin edge of hysteria most of the time. The authors and poets here are not so much interested in telling a story as they are in heightening your tension until you sing like a plucked string when the denouement hits you. Jill Rapaport's "Erotica '89" has this feeling of swift crescendo followed by rapid decline, while Eve Packer's "Summer Place" is a manic poem indeed, breathless in its welter of images. (S-24)

★★★★★

WHAT NOW? #5 ($2.50 from Chris Bridgen, 163 Princess St. #5, Kingston, ONT, K7L 1A9, CANADA): A journal of music and opinion. They cover all sorts of things, from food irradiation to the US War on Drugs, in between reviews of books, zines, music and video. Other articles tackle the reclaiming of George Orwell from the extremists, the difference (if any) between pornography and erotica, and the inconsistency of various advocacy groups. (S-48)

★★★★★

WHITE THRONE #5 ($3 from PO Box 20577, Castro Valley, CA 94546): A fat zine for "white metal" music—heavy metal played by bands made up of born-again Christians, and with lyrics with a message. There are a lot of these, and Recon, Chastain and Scarlet Red are just a few of them here, along with plenty of unsigned acts. There's also reporting from Cornerstone and another festival. The writers aren't afraid to say what they feel; you have to be both a good Christian *and* good metal to get the nod here. (S-48)

★★★★★

WICKED WOMEN Vol. 1 #6 ($5 & Age Statement from PO Box 305, Redfern, Sydney 2016, AUSTRALIA): No overseas price is listed but considering the exchange rate US$5 ought to get it to the states. The cover of this magazine leaves no doubts: it features a topless young lady with spiked wristlet and tattoo in a macho pose headed "Dyke Decadence". WW is a magazine of SM-oriented erotica by and for lesbians. It features a mix of photography, short stories, notes on other publications with similar emphasis, and reporting on matters of interest to their community. Well done, hard core, and very brave about encouraging people to stand up for their fantasies. (S-32t)

★★★★★

WIDE AWAKE #5 ($1 from PO Box 116805, Carrollton, TX 75011): A collection of nothing in particular, which appears regularly, although I sometimes wonder why. This issue has an anonymous anti-feminist screed, a bit of office humor (the one on how you're not allowed to take any more days off) and a somewhat violent collage. (S-6)

★★★★★

WIDE AWAKE'S COMIC-ART RAG #4 (75¢ from PO Bos 116805, Carrollton, TX 75011): Single-panel cartoon plus an Ace Backwords strip. There's work here from Joe E, John Eberly, Mike Morris, Jeff Williams and John Eberly as well. (D-12)

★★★★★

THE WILD RAG #11-13 ($3 from 2207 W. Whittier Blvd., Montebello, CA 90640): A music fanzine that concentrates on metal of all types. Their format is very straightforward: a couple of dozen interviews with photos in each issue, followed by scene reports from around the world. A few of the bands in #13: Zed Yago, Saraya, Meanstreak, Assassin, Coroner, Nuclear Assault, King Diamond...the list goes on and on. It's amazing how many young bands there are in this particular area, with more popping up every day. (S-64)

★★★★★

WIRE Vol. VIII #V ($6.50/6 issues from KCMU, University of Washington, DS-55 Comm. Building, Seattle, WA 98195): Music and more from the folks who run the UW radio station. They've been branching out more and more lately, with articles on gay theater and strange movies alongside the more usual fare in this issue. Of note is a story on Fela, with some history I wasn't aware of, and a longish article on Pussy Galore. (S-24t)

★★★★★

WITNESS FOR PEACE NEWSLETTER Vol. 6 #4 ($25/4 issues from 250 Lincoln Ave., Syracuse, NY 13204): Witness For Peace is a group dedicated to building a people to people relationship with the population of Nicaragua, and showing them that we're not all creeps. On the other side of the coin, they work for greater awareness of the Nicaraguan situation back home. This issue is focused on the upcoming elections, with news on what the group intends to do to see that they are free and fair and not bought by the US or the Contras. (S-16t)

★★★★★

THE WOMEN'S ALTERNATIVE TIMES Vol. 1 #1 (On Request from PO Box 49245, Austin, TX 78765): A new publication devoted mainly to women's issues. They go after Domino's pizza, discuss the recent abortion decision in the Supreme Court, and insist on RU486 as a right. There's also a transcript of a statement from the Chinese students, notes on national ACT UP demonstrations, and a calendar of events as well as a directory of like-minded organizations. A very good start. (HL-20t)

★★★★★

THE WONDERLAND TIMES Vol. 1 #11-134($3/5 issues from PO Box 20794, Baton Rouge, LA 70894): A small zine that's willing to tackle all manner of controversy: #11 has both the war on drugs and "Taxation is theft!" #12 features a spectrum of methods for beating drug tests and a wildly disturbing short story, "Good Sex", by Darris Richardson, which may offend most everyone. #13 includes a recipe for Cannabanana Bread. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE WORD OF DOG Special Pre-Rapture Edition (0-$25 [sliding scale] from PO Box 410041, San Francisco, CA 94141): Billing itself as "the Official Newsletter of the Atheist Anarchist Feminist Eco-Terrorists for Justice", this one in fact stands on the fringe of a lot of social movements and reports on them with wit and a keen eye. Much of this issue is devoted to the '89 anarchist convention ("Moral of the story: if you want to do something with a bunch of anarchists, don't so it at the summer camp for clueless out of towners, unless it's non-violent & non-destructive"). Tree-sitting and timber sales also get some space. (S-8)

★★★★★

WORKING CLASS AUTOPSY #1 ($1 from PO Box 735, Visalia, CA 93277): Literary work with an authentic voice of confused youth. What they're confused about is why there are so many stupid things going on in the world. In poetry, essay and short story they attack and dissect topics like cruelty to animals and prejudice and the brainwashing by the tube. A good first issue. (D_32)

★★★★★

WORKS #4 (£1.25 from 12 Blakestones Road, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, HD7 5UQ, UK): A relatively new addition to the small press scene, still with a few rough edges—an abominable number of spelling and proofing errors being the most glaring. But between the covers they've packed some good stories, including an assassin's tale by Kevin Lyons and a bit of minor amusement from Brian Aldiss. (A5-54r)

★★★★★

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT Vol. V #3 ($1 from Rainforest Action Network, 301 Broadway #A, San Francisco, CA 94133): News from around the world about the declining state of the rainforest, which of course is being rapidly removed in the interest of economic development. RAN is fighting this with economic pressure and boycotts, with Scott Paper and the entire state of Hawaii being two of the targets at the moment. A mixture of background news and activism suggestions. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE WORLD SEEN THROUGH MR. FOSTER'S GLASSES (25¢ & a stamp from Paul C. Tumey, 21 Cotton St., Leominster, MA 01453): A minicomic of life in a bookstore and beyond. The author can't remember his boss at the store, but his glasses remain vivid. (M-8)

★★★★★

WORLD WAR 3 ILLUSTRATED #12 ($5 from PO Box 20271, Tompkins Square, New York, NY 10009): A collection of rebellious screams of resistance against the system, presented in a format heavy with stark graphics but not devoid of text—sort of an intelligent descendant of a comic book. Concerns here include affordable housing, AIDS, the environment, nuke plants, crime, and in general, what's wrong with the system and what can be done about it. Guerilla politics. (S-160t)

★★★★★

WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER 9/25/89-11/20/89 ($5/4 issues from PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228): Timely fine-print news from the world of pro wrestling (and occasionally other places; the 10/2 issue has editor Dave Meltzer's guesses about the fate of the new roller derby). 10/23 leads off with the stabbing of Japanese wrestler-turned-politician Inoki and moves into a play-by-play of the first Saturday Main Event of the new season. 10/30 reports on the effect of the earthquake on the wrestling world—and on the editor, who lives 15 miles from the epicenter. (S-8r)

★★★★★

WRITER'S BLOCK #5 ($1.50 from Mike Appelstein, PO Box 271, Spotswood, NJ 08884): Thoughtful music coverage with a preponderance of women artists that doesn't make a big deal of this. Interviews this time round include Black Girls, Some Velvet Sidewalk, and the Raincoats. There's a pile of records and tapes, including a batch of material from the enigmatic K label and some nasty cracks about the latest from the Pixies. (S-24r)

★★★★★

WYNDCLIFFFE WATCH #1-3 ($12/4 issues from May Sutherland, PO Box 7236, Tacoma, WA 98407): For that price you not only get this Dark Shadows zine, but a membership kit with carious goodies for the fan. In addition to fan fiction and photos taken from the TV series, they cover fan news pretty exhaustively, with reports of conventions, the sturggle to keep the show in syndication, and so on. There are also plot summaries and plenty of contacts to the rest of DS fandom. The biggest package of DS stuff I've seen. (S-50)

★★★★★

XERO #6 ($2 from PO Box 832, Brookline Village, MA 02147-0832): A collection of comics and graphics that alternately amuses and disgusts. Tom Winkler contributes Eddy Jest, a cab driver with a wild sense of humor that only works on the printed page. Michael Manning's serialized "Red Time Overload" still perplexes, while images from Mark Neville lead to intense concentration and headaches. There are lots of other contributors here, and the mix of comics and graphics is delightful. (S-60)

★★★★★

YAWN #1-4 (SASE from PO Box 162, Oakdale, IA 52319): A set of broadsheets exploring and promoting the Art Strike, a period of three years (1990-1993) during which all cultural workers are supposed to stop producing. The work here is all anonymous, but pretty much in the mode of SMILE and the other major promoters of the idea, ideological dissertations combined with detourned bits of low culture. A nice forum for discussion of a crummy idea. (S-2t)

★★★★★

YELLOW SILK #31 ($6 from PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): This is the "West Meets East" issue of this journal of erotica, with works from or about the orient. These include a fresh translation of a Ming Dynasty erotic short story, poems translated (and in one case authored) by Carolyn Lau, and a Willliam Kotzwinkle short story. Lush art by Mayumi Oda spills across every page. YS is gentle, loving, egalitarian, and a fine read. (S-50t)

★★★★★

YHOS #48 ($2 from Art Widner, 231 Courtney Ln., Orinda, CA 94563): A science fiction fanzine from someone who's been doing such for nigh on fifty years now, and still seems to be having a damned good time. The major topic of discussion in recent issues has been the composition of fandom, but Art is trying to draw that to a close with this issue's letters and hopes to get into talking about horror and slasher films soon. Always something interesting in here, and plenty of faces one seldom sees elsewhere. (HL-36r)

★★★★★

YIPPIE HIPPIE Sept. 1989 (SASE from Doc, PO Box 1586, Norristown, PA 19404): A collection of reprints and a bit of original material, all directed at the socially-conscious potheads and others in the same general political arena. There are pieces on abortion, flag-burning, pot, rain forests, and more here. (S-4t)

★★★★★

YOKO ONLY #26 ($9/6 issues from PO Box 20283, Columbus Circle Stn., New York, NY 10023): This one is, as you may have guessed, for fans of Yoko Ono. Most of this issue is taken up with notes on an exhibition of her art recently shown in Michigan. There's an amusing audience-involvement aspect to many pieces, and she apparently did some performance pieces as well. Also contests, book reviews, and lots of photos. (S-24t)

★★★★★

YOUR DIRTY LIL' COMIC #2 (50¢ & a stamp & Age Statement from Nice Day Comix, 911 Park St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-6241): A minicomic with the subtitle "S'Mud Thing" which takes off on some well-known comics characters, but in a sexually explicit setting. No special story line here, just some fighting and screwing and a safe sex ad. (M-8)

★★★★★

ZEEEEN #5 (75¢ from You're Standing On My Hula Hoop Productions, 84 McCartin St., Leongatha 3953 Victoria, AUSTRALIA): That's the in-country cover price; I guess a handful of IRCs from the US would net you a copy. Inside we find a mix of music and film coverage, with occasional excursions into other media. A Bruce Russell interview is the main feature this time around, along with a handful of reviews and some short letters. (A4-12t)

★★★★★

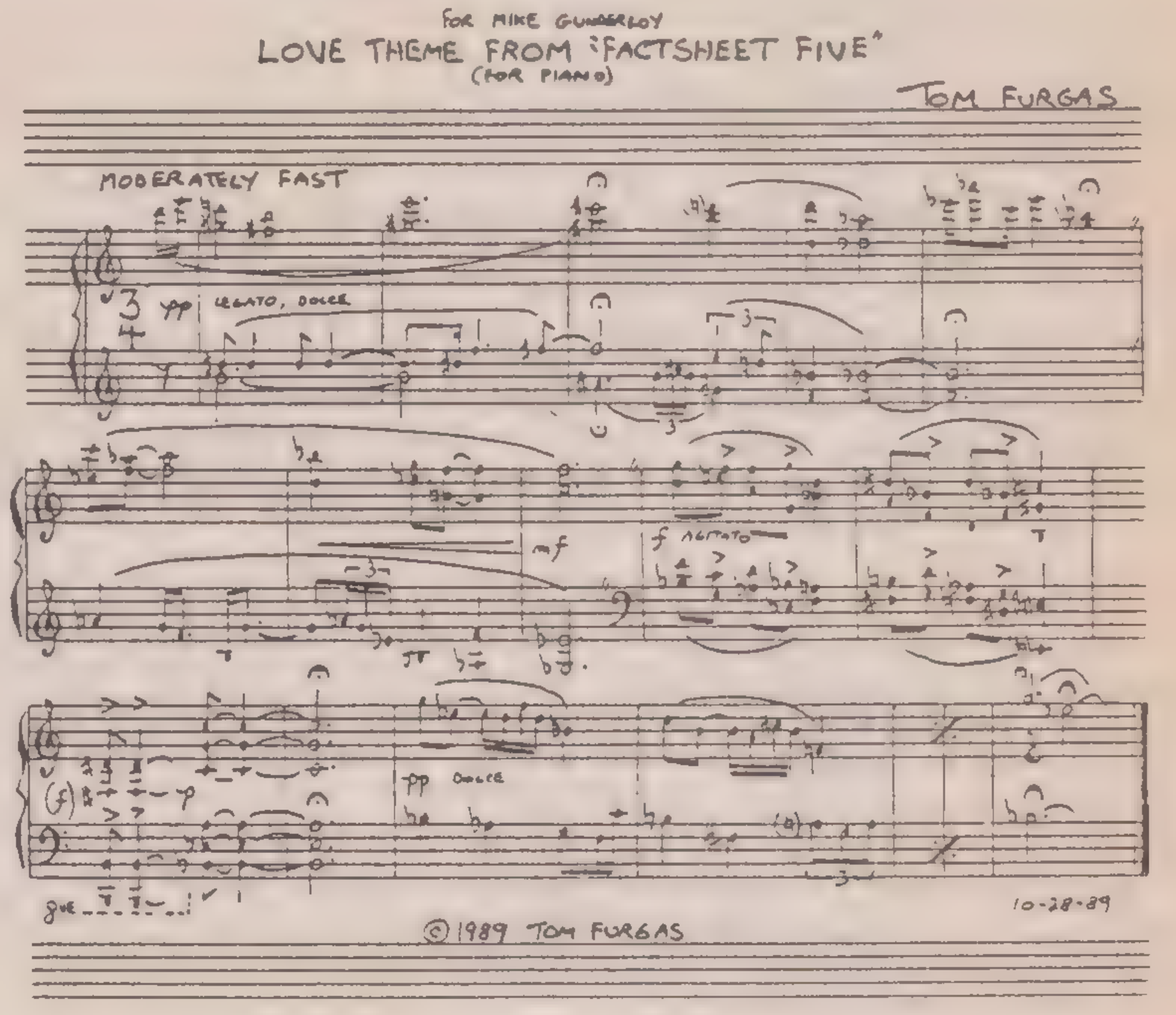
ZIP CODE #2($5 from Winterwood, 39 Banbury Close, Ladybridge Drive, West Hunsbury, Northampton, NN4 9UA, UK): A music zine that does nice things with its desktop published look and coverage of bands from all over. The Del Lords and Pauline Murray are the major features in this issue, though there are also several references to Bob Dylan scattered about, thanks to a recent tour and biography, Guy Kyser of Thin White Rope presents some tour diary notes as well. (A4-36t)

★★★★★

Z MISCELLANEOUS Vol. 3 #3 ($4 from PO Box 20041, Cherokee Station, New York, NY 10028): A massive literary quarterly that puts its experimentalism up front, in the form of inserts—a clothespin, a chapbook, a postcard. The fiction and poetry here are mostly pretty traditional, but they're open to a range of work, including comics and opinion pieces. Laurel Speer reviews books, Richard Kostelanetz reviews his own life, and a lot of other people chime in with words to entertain. (S-98)

★★★★★

ZYZZYVA Vol. V #3 ($8 from 41 Sutter #1400, San Francisco, CA 94104): A West-coast oriented literary magazine that gets a bit experimental but in an establishment sort of way—exploration, not confusion or shock, is their goal. Of the bits here, I most enjoyed Henry Noyes' tale of the founding of China Books. The profile of publisher Wesley Tanner is also interesting, though frankly $900 limited-edition books appall me. Fiction, architecture, poetry, photography can all be found here. (D-136t)



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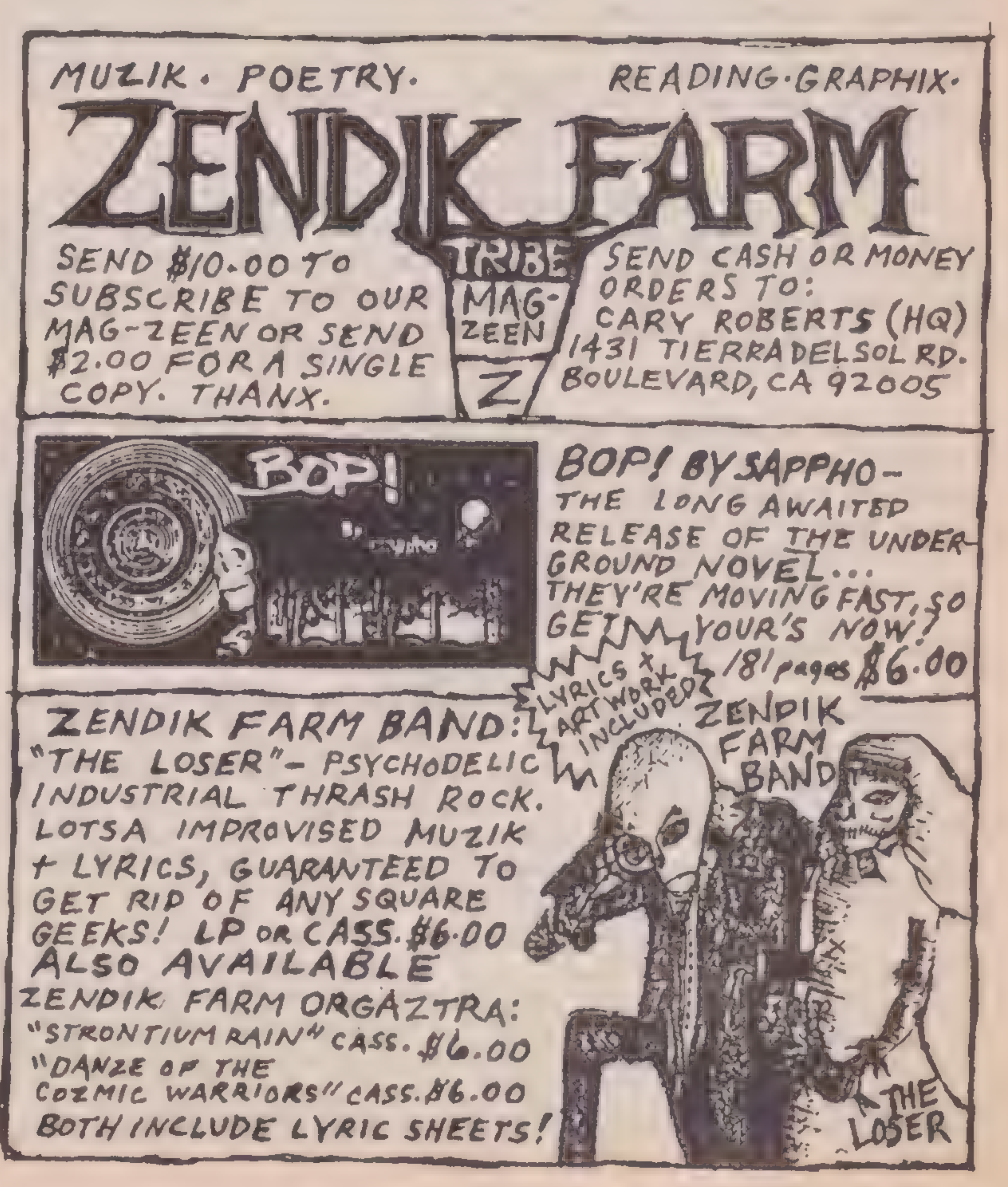
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Poetry reviews are by PJ Bellomo (pjb) and the Æditor (MG). *A late note: I just discovered a whole stack of poetry that did not get reviewed for this issue. My apologies to those slighted, and we will get them into the February issue.*

★★★★★

AILERON Vol. X #1 ($3 from Aileron Press, PO Box 891, Austin, Texas 78767): Rob Lewis acts as guest editor for this issue, the focus being long poems. These works are a welcome change; the poets are given space to meld ideas into longer forms, with words that seem to ring off the page. There is great creativity here, and it is the readers who will be the crucial factor: is there an audience in 1989 who can last beyond the 25th line? (D-68)(pj)

★★★★★

ALABAMA DOGSHOE MOUSTACHE #5 ($3 from Geof Huth, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): A big chunk of (mostly) visual poetry, the largest **ADM** Huth has yet put together. I liked the page from Bob Grumman, which was just close enough to "real" poetry to seem right to me, while experimental enough to fit in the magazine—a happy medium. (Mike Miskowski's photocopy alteration, on the other hand, left me cold). Not an overwhelming amount of work, which is good, since it can take some time to wring meaning out of these pages. (S-16)

★★★★★

Francisco X. Alarcón, **QUAKE POEMS**, ($2.50 from We Press, PO Box 1503, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): We Press is right on top of the big quake in Santa Cruz, and proceeds from this book are going to earthquake relief efforts. Alarcón writes in short bursts, with a very tentative feel, recapturing some of the shock of living through a disaster. There's some myth-building going on here, an attempt to see the earthquake as a message from nature. (D-12t)(MG)

★★★★★

BELLOWING ARK Vol 5 #5 ($2 from PO Box 45637, Seattle, WA 45637): For the 1st time ever, an issue of this zine didn't do much for me. Ironically, it was a case of the whole being less than the sum of its parts. Individual contributors performed well; "Walk to the Store With Beth" by Paula deArmas hit home. Something about the editorial style that's a turn-off though. (T-20)(pj)

★★★★★

Clif Bennett, **STAND COOL, GWYNHYVER** ($2 "and a note telling why you want this" from RR2, Hawkestone, ONT, L0L 1T0, CANADA): Bennett writes in a mythic mode, exploring Arthurian myth, the Great Khan, Kali, Ziggurats, the Great Pyramid, and other things that rumble through the collective unconsciousness. His attempt to meld chess with the tale of Arthur & Gwynhyver works pretty well, and his other poems are stately, contemplative, and occasionally even instructive. (D-47t)

★★★★★

J. Bentley, **PLANET PARTNERS** ($3 from 1003 Granbury, Cleburne, TX 76031): A collection of poems in a rather unassuming voice. Bentley looks at glasnost in half a dozen lines, or gets deep into the question of whether love is worth it. No capitals here, which lends to the air of tentativeness. Simple and straightforward. (S-18t)(MG)

★★★★★

BLACK ON WHITE (3 dimes & a stamp from Happydog Productions, 3609 Kent Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055): A mini of poetry that sounds like punk lyrics to me; I can easily imagine most of these sung to fast hardcore music. Injustice, hope, fear, and despair at the world are the prevailing emotions here. (M-17)(MG)

★★★★★

BONESAUCE #9 ($1 from Peter Mantix, 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104): More photocopied and highlighted graphics splattered around the poetry of Les Cramer, Judson Crews, Norma Lee Edwards, Walt Phillips, et al. It's a "pulled another body from the river" issue; that is, poems about anything with the clarity of a punch in the stomach. Falwell gets a hilarious moon. And even I make headlines in a baffling rebuff to an earlier review. (D-20)(pj)

★★★★★

Star Bowers, **IT'S RAINING BIRDS** ($2 from Poked Press, 4015 Overland Pkwy, Toledo, OH 43612): This is a fun chapbook, the poems seemingly derived from frantic moments of discontent with the many buffoons on TV and in our mutant puritan society. Now there's more than just that, but the style is consistent—one that inevitably leaves readers nodding their heads & smiling. (HS-20)(pj)

★★★★★

Jonathan Brannen, **ETHERNITY** ($1 (?) from Runaway Spoon Press, Box 3621, Port Charlotte, FL 33949): Dense, abstract poems with musical words flowing all-over the page. An excerpt from "Promise" gives an accurate flavor of Brannen's style: "...the desert cargo/figures a pure notation/perhaps accounting/for the appetite/of numbers...." The loose weave in these works demands diligence and imagination from the reader. (MM-14)(pj)

★★★★★

Brown, **SODIUM FORMATE AND SULFURIC ACID** ($2 (?) from Rats With Keys, 1428 Nadeau Drive, LA, CA 90019): This chapbook contains 13 poems, mostly of what one might call a medium length (50-75 lines). A common element is the dreamy imagery. The plot is always clear but the characters are unlikely and occasionally fantastic: "One of them had eyeballs the/size of plates, 6-inch calcium/thorns jutting off his skeleton/and perspired through his/fingernails." Things get even stranger at the "Voodoo Buddhist ice cream social." (D-36)(pj)

★★★★★

Michael Burwell, **NORTH AND WEST** ($3 (?) from Heaven Bone Press, PO Box 486, Chester, NY 10918): This was published as the result of Burwell winning an annual chapbook competition. The poems are short, personal accounts and reflections on Alaska and surrounding northwest territories. Tangible, wet descriptions: "We make an oily craft/with rust and creosote drippings...We take all the varnish/the salt of the ocean/can lay in our veins./We are the liquor of the sea." For those who find peace in nature's freedom. (D-32t)(pj)

★★★★★

CAMELLIA 2 ($4/yr from Tomer Inbar, PO Box 3406, Oakland, CA 94609): A quarterly publication that offers samples for a 45¢ SASE. It got increasingly better as I neared the end. Some striking images, such as Katherine Waddell's opening line in "Skin": "today i stand at my sink ripping skin off." P.S. Alberhasky has a playful piece about remembering the name of a prostitute. Inbar's poem "pillaging feathers from a woman's hat" is flowing and timeless and an outstanding work of art. (D-16)(pj)

★★★★★

Joe Cardillo, **THE ROCK N' ROLL JOURNALS** ($6.95 from Lactuca Publications, PO Box 621, Suffern NY 10901): This poetry is filled with the bodies of men and women, but there is much more. It is passion, though frequently abstract, almost mystical. Some lines from "Spring Burials" are representative: "But it is autumn,/and a young man/imagines his lover's mouth,/tries to remember/even the taste/of her/saliva./And he does./The details are irrelevant." (D-75t)(pj)

★★★★★

THE FIRST CHARNEL HOUSE ANTHOLOGY OF BAD POETRY ($6 from Crad Kilodney, PO Box 281, Stn. S, Toronto, ONT, M5M 4L7, CANADA): We've received a good deal of bad poetry here at FF (and probably not been as harsh to it as we should), but this is one of the few publications to crow about it. Kilodney has gone through slushpiles and vanity press publications and unearthed a great deal of stuff from limericks that don't scan to pretentious ballads to awful doggerel. There are some names I recognize here, but out of charity, I won't mention them. Still, as one poet maintains "Some say I stink/Well, I still think/That this is the land of the free." (D-64)

CIRCLE #1-3 ($3 from Lex Reibestein [MOs to Lex; checks to Leslie Powell], PO Box 484, Piermont, NY 10968): These three date back to 1984 but they're still available. Sporting lovely screened multicolor covers, they feature poetry of the fantastic side of things, with plenty of sweeping themes. Jordan Schaffner's "Ghostlove" in #3 captures some of the feel of too many loves in too much life; Lex's own "The Scarecrow's Soliloquy in #2 has the feel of whispering winds behind it. For the special price of $10 you can get the first four issues of this zine (#4 will be out soon), plus the first of his **FRACTIONAL FUNNIES**, plus "assorted goodies". (HL-40t)(MG)

★★★★★

Angela B. Coon, **WE** (SASE from We Press, PO Box 1503, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): A single poem that surfaced in my pile of review material and was strong enough to warrent some comment. Many, I'm sure, get tired of these political odes which go after the big boys of D.C. But Coon's word choices and style are powerful. At the climax: "...We, post-atomic children/dive into pools of plutonium/for blue lobstermeal/& want to bite back./We want to fuck the world." A mere excerpt is a little unfair because the poems reads fast—one quick rush which a few lines don't do justice. Send for it. (S-1)(pj)

★★★★★

Larry O. Dean, **BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE** ($2 from Zenith Beast Books, 473-A 14th St, San Francisco, CA 94103): Broken into 5 parts —Introspection, Uptown, Romance, Downtown, & Outrospection—this chapbook contains mostly poetic observations written in the 1st person. Sometimes funny, frequently engaging, these poems suffer only from the minuscule type. No masterpieces, but many quick, concrete glances at lives with potato chips, sticky buns, lost material objects, and people that matter. (D-44r)(pj)

★★★★★

Larry O. Dean, **QWERTYUIOP**, ($2 from Zenith Beast Books, 473-14th St. #A, San Francisco, CA 94103): Larry has an urban voice, and his poems are full of people and manmade things rather than nature or Deep Concepts. (Which is not to say there's no depth here—but it's left for the reader to find, not shouted out). He writes of plumber's helpers and jogging with his dog, of old loves and new acquaintances. I enjoyed "When the Puppets Broke Their Strings", though some might find this allegory of freedom too pat. (D-27r)

★★★★★

DEATH, DESTRUCTION, AND ALL THAT NEAT STUFF #1 ($1 from Josh Carter, PO Box 116805, Carrollton, TX 75011): A small booklet of cynical poetry in a nice graphic format. The writer praises McDonalds for being a good place to shoot people and suggests that the end of the human race will be a good thing, for example. (HL-8)(MG)

★★★★★

William Dockery, **GREEN RINGLETS** (50¢ from 2108 15th Ave., Phenix City, AL 36867): Dockery's poetry is a hard nut to crack, but for some reason these poems—nearly a decade old—seem easier than most of his stuff. Love and life are the subjects, with people trying desperately to connect amidst an atmosphere of futility. Mosaic pictures of people trying to retain hope. (M-8r)(MG)

★★★★★

C. Evans, **VACANCY** ($1 (?) from Lainie, 723 N. Highland Ave, Arlington Hts, IL 60004): A short chapbook of poems which are predominantly rhymed. It's "love, dove, from above" banality, describing the author's struggle with the large and small of existence. Despite the generally poor quality, there's this quasi-visual poem, "Heart Heart Heart," that was interesting; scribbled in the right margin, it plays with "art," "heart," "earth," and "hearth." (D-32)(pj)

★★★★★

Benjamin Green, **THE LOST COAST** ($3.50 from Great Elm Press, RD2 Box 37, Rexville, NY 14877): Gentle contemplative poetry. This stuff is heavily oriented towards an appreciation of nature, as the poet is wandering about a remote stretch of coastline and just thinking about the world. There's a sense of things being worked out, of decisions made, and finally nature is left for the human world once again. (D-21t)(MG)

★★★★★

THE GREEN GOAT #2 (SASE from 2048 Wayneport Rd, 7B, Macedon, NY 14502): A broad sheet of numerous poems generally 10 lines in length or less. Most are of, or directed toward, people with whom the author has some personal relationship. It's the kind of selection which you'll probably find mundane for the most part, but then you'll find one short piece that you really like. "Grampa" was my favorite. (S-4)(pj)

★★★★★

THE GROOVY PIE #13 ($1 from Third Eye Publications, 1703 Princeton Ave, Lakewood, NJ 08701): Short selection of photo-copied poems straight from teenager hell. Simple rhyme and meter is the course of the day, replete with crayon drawings and a top 10 list (missing the 10th item). The screen of the tube reads "Coming home Late at night,/I Switch on my T.V.,/Just Want To Stare My Life Away,/In brain-dead Ecstasy..." (HS-4)(pj)

★★★★★

John W. Hart, III, **THE CHRISTMAS TREE POEMS** ($1 (?) from Shelf Life Press, 22704 Ventura Boulevard, #245, Woodland Hills, CA 91364): While a high-school student, the author sold christmas trees. This chapbook is a poetic chronicle of Hart's initiation into capitalism. The language is clear and to the point; the anecdotes are as simple as the memory of a practical joke played one cold night when the gang went on a pizza run. (D-21)(pj)

★★★★★

HEARTS & BONES ($1 from Peter Mantix, 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104): A special issue of Bonesauce, with poems focused on relationships from the perspective of a candid cynic. There's a hazy pair of heterosexual characters that play leads, a distant male lover plays a supporting role as the "King of Excess." Imagine Jack Nicholson cast in a soap opera. (HS-16)(pj)

★★★★★

Albert Huffstickler, **GLEANINGS** ($3 from Press of Circumstance, 312 E. 43 St. #103, Austin, Texas 78751): Although not always explicit, a theme of mortality threads through this chapbook. Memories tend to drive each poem; coffee brewed a certain way brings solace because of its link to the past. And in a world where life passes, a visit to an elderly aunt, as in "Anchoring," can cement a person to the "cold earth of Texas." (D-24)(pj)

★★★★★

Albert Huffstickler, **WALKING WOUNDED** ($8 from Backyard Press, 8306-B Pitter Pat, Austin, Texas 78736): The author experienced partial paralysis in his legs after a disc let loose; he spent time recovering at a home for elderly people. Experiences in this home, especially talks with Wanda, are the centerpiece for this book of poems. Each short poem is a story. And each story is so full of life that it would bleed if you stuck it. (D-89)(pj)

★★★★★

LILLIPUT REVIEW 7 ($1 from D. Wentworth, 4 Huddy Ave, Highlands, NJ 07732): This broadside, subtitled "Waltzing in a Sealed Garden," contains 7 short poems by Steven Doering. These poems are quick observations, sometimes little stories, challenging the reader in simple ways. "Lighting Lamps Against the Storm" draws a picture of young people being read to at night, noting that soon the older ones will be learning by experience. (M-8)(pj)

★★★★★

LIME GREEN BULLDOZERS #11 ($1 (?) from Lainie, 723 N. Highland Ave, Arlington Hts, IL 60004): More wild, enchanting graphics along with poems and a cartoon. Many familiar names deliver; the goods are, in a way, unsightly but artistic. It's an issue that finds the art in the ungainly. D. Watt's strange (love?) poem "how ugly" is exemplary and shouldn't be missed. (S-40)(pj)

★★★★★

LYNX #1 ($4 from Eruptions, Inc., PO Box 169, Toutle, WA 98649): Formerly APA-Renga, this zine continues the exploration and appreciation of the linked-verse, Japanese poetic form. There is a brief historical sketch of the APA zine, complemented by a peppering of insightful editorial remarks. The layout is similar, but marked by growth. And of course the rengas are there, speaking for themselves as always. (T-24)(pj)

★★★★★

Peter Mantis, **DEAD HAT ON A MERRY-GO-ROUND** ($1 from Peter Mantis, 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104): Poems inspired by the end of a stormy relationship and other happy times in Memphis. There's bitterness in every piece. Mantis uses the same format as in Bonesauce, though it's never been quite so cathartic. Emphasis on the force in lieu of the form. (D-12)(pj)

★★★★★

John McElhenney, **FALLEN STRUCTURES** ($6 from McOne Press, PO Box 50174, Austin, TX 78703): An interwoven collection of poems divided into "Contracting" and "Release", with some end matter on either side. The first section is mostly depressing, sorrowful, even scary. The second is brighter, as the poet seems to reconnect with the world and its simple joys. There's quite a sense of attention to detail and craft in McElhenney's writings. (S-50t)(MG)

★★★★★

Raymond McNeice, **DIS: VOICES FROM A SHELTER** ($2.50 from Burning Press, PO Box 18817, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118): A linked set of poems based on talking to homeless people at the Boston Nite Center, a place for the homeless to at least spend the night. There's down-and-outers here, crazies, and just the old-timers, all retaining some dignity, and with insights into what's wrong with this country as seen from the bottom up. An authentic sounding work. (D-36t)(MG)

★★★★★

Rick Miller, **VISIONS STRAINED THROUGH PRISON SHIT & RUSTING BARS: THE PRISON POEMS** (Postage & Trade from Rick Miller #186789, PO Box 4571 (LCI), Lima, OH 45802): Somehow Rick has managed to self-publish this from behind bars. He asks that people who want a copy be "willing and able to correspond with impounded souls". As you might expect, the subject here is mainly the tedium and inhumaneness of prison life, and the difficulty of moving love across the walls. I really liked his tribute to the late Abbie Hoffman; it captured both the hope and the futility of rebellion. (S-25)(MG)

★★★★★

MOMENT #11 ($3 from 22704 Ventura Bl, #245, Woodland Hills, CA 91364): Billed as an "L.A. Journal of the Arts," this zine comes through with a diverse assortment of graphics, cartoons, photos, poems, and random information. For fans of the beat generation, there's an enlightening interview with Burrough's son Billy. Something for everyone in this mag, but a real must, it would seem, for those into the L.A. arts scene. (S-32)(pj)

★★★★★

MUSINGS (75¢ from Jai Pearson, 168 S. Sea Ave., Burnaby, BC, V5B 3W6, CANADA): An anthology of poetry from new voices, nicely put togehter to show off the words with a minimum of distraction. Walt Phillips amuses with "Genius is Knowing Where the Circus Is", while Richard F. Hay, Sr. gives us a glimpse of military barbarity in "A Mama's Boy". Other contributors include Lainie, Richard Neubauer, and D. Watt. (D-12t)(MG)

★★★★★

MY EYE 2 ($1 (? from 6816 Jackson #2, Warren, MI 48091): Rhymed poems which are so bad that no one even takes credit for them. Each of these is a feeble attempt at getting a laugh out of current socio-eco-political problems: "There's fluoride in the water/my teeth are getting white/I'd go out for a walk/but I glow in the night." There's an unknown but talented illustrator who should seek additional outlets for her/his creative works. (D-16)(pj)

★★★★★

NARCOPOLIS & OTHER POEMS ($4 from Hell's Kitchen Productions, Inc., PO Box 370, Times Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10108-0370): Dedicated to Anton Szandor LaVey, this is a collection of eerie and scary poetry edited by Peggy Nadramia. There's a lot of big names here, including Don ebb, t. Winter-Damon, Kathleen Jurgens, Denise Dumars, and David Kopaska-Merkel. Plenty of shudders, highlighted by art from the Gigerish Harry O. Morris and others. (D-64t)(MG)

★★★★★

R.J. Neubauer, **BEDDAZZLED** and **THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE** ($2 from 2048 Wayneport Rd, 7B, Macedon, NY 14502): The 2nd one is a chapbook of 8 very short poems about our disappearing wilderness. Pick-up trucks with roll-bars and loud music are invading the author's once isolated home; there are more cul-de-sacs and more litter. Simple poems asking the question put-forth in "Gône": "What will happen/To the community,/When they build/Those places, and/Take away the/Spirit, that once/Filled empty spaces?" The 1st reprints some of these, plus some other works of similar style. (D-12)(pj)

★★★★★

NOON BLUE APPLES #13 ($1 or $10/12 issues from Eric Wagner, 2080 E. Greenway, Tempe, AZ 85282): This issue of Eric's broadside starts-off with "The Waist Land." The parody is interesting, but the feisty letters which follow really grabbed my interest. It's difficult to imagine the audience; Eric kinda does his own thing and let's readers take their chances. (S-8)(pj)

★★★★★

THE PAPER BAG Vol. 1 #3 ($2.50 from PO Box 268805, Chicago, IL 60626-8805): The poems and writings here have a pensive, sometimes sad quality about them. Dan Seiters' allegory "Political Art" was frightening;. Delia De Santis "Snow on the Roofs" is a quick tale about a woman and a baby alone, and a man who stops by for a visit (ultra depressing). Anyway, the only drawback to this one is that there is only one graphic to break-up the lines. (D-28)(pj)

★★★★★

THE PLOWMAN Vol. I #12 ($7.50 from PO Box 414, Whitby, ONT, L1N 5S4, CANADA): A wide-ranging journal of poetry that seems to be doing everything: chapbooks, readings, conventions, and more. But editor Tony Scavetta is a sometimes outrageous person, and much of this issue is spent defending his poem "The Jesus Killers" from #11 (reprinted here) which is very close to being anti-semitic and in any case in very bad taste. A number of people are going to be uncomfortable with his defense, especially the part where he admits to deliberately writing "hate literature", apparently for effect. (T-112)(MG)

★★★★★

POETS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE #3 ($5 (?) from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): Another collection from the folks who state up front that "The criteria of poetry are not aesthetic or literary, but spiritual". Whether you agree with this or not, you'll find a lot of activist words here, designed to poke and prod an audience into doing something about injustice and violence. Contributors include Carl Bettis, Sharon Eiker, C. Winstead and Maril Crabtree. (HL-62t)(MG)

★★★★★

John Porcellino, **MONTREAL** ($1 (?) from Lainie, 723 N. Highland Ave, Arlington Hts, IL 60004): Short poems with threads of locomotion, overwritten on what appear to be street maps of the city. This might be an abstract travel log, but the disjointed poems are hard to figure ("Night 3"): "Never knowing not we won't/I can't return my lips to/you but not unthinking I'm/sorry I can not believe myself." (D-16)

★★★★★

REFLEKTION 4 ($1 (?) from Kera, 7824 Pebblebrook Circle, Hanover Park, IL 60103): Small zine of poetry and graphics. Some poems are introspective while others are descriptive; they all seem to have a hidden search of sorts at their roots. The cold eroticism of K.X. and Yurus received second readings. (D-24)(pj)

★★★★★

RHYTHMS #2-3 ($IRHYTHMS($5 ffrom James Riley, PO Box 9303, Washington, DC 20005): They call these poetry collections, though #2 also has a Nina Hagen interview (she comes off like a bubblehead) and both feature prose pieces as well. #2 is the "Love" issue, with plenty of poems about relationships and sex, while #3 is "Mental Decay", unearthing the dark sides of the poets. Comes in a clear plastic binder, and every page is dressed up with borders or little sketches. (S-45t)(MG)

★★★★★

David Roskos, **THE ENERGY OF THE FLESH** ($2 (?) from PO Box 1698, New Brunswick, NJ 08901): Poems mainly of love, or at least sex, though they dart off into diverse other subjects including religion. The front cover here takes a shot at being obscene and blasphemous, but the interior is more like world-weary and cynical about the prospects of sex to solve anything. People on the down and out populate Roskos' world, but they manage to get through somehow. (D-36r)(MG)

★★★★★

G. A. Scheinoha, **SNIPER OF THE HEART** ($1 from Mutated Viruses Press, 1094, W. Pratt Blvd., Apt 1E, Chicago, IL 60626): The imagery here is all the decor that goes with well-trained special forces commandos. Although it's not always clear, the war being waged seems to be (as the title implies) a battle of love. Neither metaphors nor poems showed any creativity. (MM-24)(pj)

★★★★★

Gail Schilke, **STILLTRAUMA** ($4 from 163 Ludlow St, #2C, NY, NY 10002): The first clue lies in a poem where Gail tells of her grandmother confiding that the peaceful times were in a psychiatric institution. Then this personal feminist revolution goes explicit with "A Woman Alone With Her Self." Form and poetic intricacy take a back seat to getting-the-point-across: in this instance, there is probably no better delivery possible. (D-24)(pj)

★★★★★

SILVER WINGS Vol. VII #4 ($2 from PO Box 1000, Pearlblossom, CA 93553-1000): The poems in this magazine all show a deep love of the natural environment. Many of these works connect nature with various forms of spiritualism. All-in-all, this thumps a little too much for me; but I'm tolerant enough to once again witness John Grey's great talent. (D-32)(pj)

★★★★★

John Six, **THE 3RD FLOOR DOOR** ($1 (?) from PO Box 7792, Rego Park, NY 11374): Tortured memories of a group house inhabited by a bunch of friends on the top floor and two relatively normal families on the first two floors. There's a lot going on here but much of it is unclear, seen through a cracked mirror of angst and emotion. Apparently the author was driven to excess and strange behavior by what he saw as hypocrisy on the part of those he lived with, as well as the usual interpersonal nonsense that goes on in such situations. (D-20r)

★★★★★

SOLOFLYER 13 (SASE from Spare Change Poetry, 2115 Clearview NE, Massillon, OH 44646): This issue of the broadside series features 4 poems by Sandra R. Ballard. Memories of younger days fuel the 1st 3 works: riding back and forth down mainstreet on weekend nights; escaping to the woods and sharing the pain of teenage years; hiding in the dark w/mother from those scary strangers peddling religion at the front door. (HS-4)(pj)

★★★★★

Sherry Solomon, **THE JUMPING OFF PLACE** ($5.95 from Green Street Press, PO Box 4005, Austin, TX 78765): Surefooted poems of the Texas and Louisiana coast, mixing Indian and Cajun culture with that of the later settlers. Solomon has a strong voice and an eye for detail, capturing snapshots of childbirth or love or danger or childhood savagery and making them come alive on the page. Not self-consciously ethnic, but rooted securely in a sense of place. (D-50t)(MG)

★★★★★

STAR*LINE Vol. 12 #5/6 ($8/yr from Chuck and Susan Noe Rothman, 2012 Pyle Rd., Schenectady, NY 12303): The Science Fiction Poetry Association is going strong, and this double issue has a lot packed into it. There are pages of new poems by past Rhysling Award winners, including a special section of works by David Lunde. There are market notes and reviews, pages on desktop poetry and promoting the cause at the Worldcon. And of course the highlight is the poetry, fanciful yet mostly straightforward. (D-36t)(MG)

★★★★★

SUPPLEMENT TO TRAMP #6 (25¢ stamp from PO Box 1386, Columbia, SC 29202-1386): A broadside containing three unrelated short poems by Phillip Miller, Niditch, and Willie Smith. Each poem is striking, even Smith's telling of a first experience tasting human feces. Quick, get a stamp. (S-1)(pj)

★★★★★

TALES FROM THE INSIDE OF THE INSIDE OF THE CITY ($1 (?) from The Paper Bag Press, POBox 268805, Chicago, IL 60626-8805): Poems, stories, and drawings by young people ages 4-13 attending an alternative summer school in Chicago. I don't get the chance to read works by young people that often, so I really enjoyed this. These folks write of clowns, toothbrushes, and being scared. Vernon Perkins caught the toothbrushes in a midnight dance, but he wasn't suppposed to tell anyone so mums the word. (S-10)(pj)

★★★★★

THERE CAN BE GODS ($11.50 plus tax for Texans from Inverted A, Inc., 401 Forrest Hill, Grand Prairie, Texas 75051): A zine of poetry layed-out with some desktop publishing equipment. Editor Aya Katz showcases her own work, which tends to follow the rest in peace through faith in a western notion of divinity. Lots of rhyme and meter; a little left of liberal. (D-36t)(pj)

★★★★★

Nico Vassilakis, **VOWEL** ($2 from 124 1/2 Broadway E. Box 16, Seattle WA 98102): One long, abstract poem. Sometimes it seems a rush of unconnected thoughts, connected only by the style of presentation and geography; sometimes there are hints to the puzzle: "tubers/of/food/await/the dawn/to/exhume them/in great/ceremony the living/speck/of/decay/was found/to live/in/a house/and with the aid of an/electron microscope and/100 thousand enlargements/we now know where/death lives." (D-16)(pj)

★★★★★

VIRGO ($2 (?) from Fonthill Studio, 1431 Pelham St., Fonthill, ONT, L0S 1E0, CANADA): Nice packaging (with a deckle-edge cover and interesting heraldric device) for some pretty mediocre poetry. A work by Lois Kelly, on kickign the poetry habit, is one of the few high points. Generally, alas, the poets here seem to be stagnating. (D-32)

★★★★★

Carl Watson, **LIVING FOR THE ECSTASY SECT** ($2 (?) from Apathy Press, 2924 E. Coldspring Ln., Baltimore, MD 21214): Very tough to unravel poems cloaked in a nightmare imagery taken from the depths of the mind. "salty crusty edges now/all images.dissolving, living/photographic acid eating/being living/teeth leech..." (that's from "meatyard party party") is a fair sample of the way Watson's work twists and turns. Cynical, weary, and unique. (D-32t)(MG)

★★★★★

WE 12 ($4 from PO Box 1503, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): A poetry zine that uses heavy and colorful cover construction as a way to lend an appealing solidity to their project. Lots of strong voices here: Mecklem & Falk, Lifshin, Arguelles, Mycue, and many more. Several earthquake-related pieces remind the reader of the origin of this zine, but by and large this is just a slice of contemporary challenging poetry. (S-48t)(MG)

★★★★★

Paul Weinman, **THE FLAG'S ON FIRE!!** and **WHO IS THAT WHITE BOY?** ($1 (?) from 79 Cottage, Albany, NY 12203): Both of these poetic throw-togethers are in the WB format. The 1st is a parody of an incident in Albany, NY not long ago when our friend actually was prevented from burning the flag by violence-oriented Vets. The line "Unable to ignite r national cloth in protest of threat 2 free speech, White B asks cop in car for protection from the enraged VFW horde..." is, for example, a scene I saw on the local news. As expected, with this, and with his 2nd writing where WB dons many a disguise, Weinman is playful and provocative. (MM-18)(pj)

★★★★★

Paul Weinman, **NOTHING SAID** ($1.50 from Mutated Viruses Press, 1094, W. Pratt Blvd., Apt 1E, Chicago, IL 60626): A series of 23 short poems written from the 1st person, many involving the author and some unnamed lover. There are serene moments, and then clumsy, scary moments seeming to fortell love's end. All this is in secluded, natural surroundings with ponds, lakes, & many animal species. A Weinman that few have seen and few should miss. (M-12)(pj)

★★★★★

Sigmund Weiss, **AGED VOICES THIRD SERIES** ($1 from Mutated Viruses Press, 1094, W. Pratt Blvd., Apt 1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Each short piece is philosophical in nature. The author goes almost into a talk as he writes "All Persons Need Support." This theme of people needing others runs thru-out thes poems. "The Lonely Player" cheats at solitaire—there's no satisfaction because he is alone. The idea of "aging" lurks in the background. (MM-20)(pj)

★★★★★

Leilah Wendell, **SHADOWS IN THE HALF-LIGHT** ($10.95 from Westgate Press, 8 Bernstein Blvd, Center Moriches, NY 11934): New Age poems and graphics of a supernatural/spiritual bent. The "Angel of Death" pops up whenever there's a lull in the action: "Death slips by too quick to touch./I want to reach out/and hold Him close." I suspect this'll be of great interest to those who believe there is a level us materialists are missing. (Q-66)(pj)

★★★★★

WHITE PUNKTURIST CRASH ($1.25 from Bob Z c/o Sarris Bookmarketing 125 E. 23rd St #300, NY, NY 10010): In the anti-poetic, anti-intellectual tradition, this nasty mag takes sociology and fun to the bedroom and the toilet bowl. These graphics and writings would piss-off the middle-class as much as MTV, but at least then the little brats would be getting an education. Sex, feminism (with a small "f"), and tacit indictments of government. (M-32)(pj)

★★★★★

WIDE AWAKE'S NUCLEAR POETRY #4 (75¢ from PO Box 116805, Carrollton, TX 75011): Short poems in a short and unpretentious collection. I liked John Eberly's "Fight The Power", sort of the ultimate conspiracy theory compressed into a dozen or so lines. White Boy amuses as usual. (D-12)(MG)

★★★★★

Raffy Woolf and Phil Thomas, **RENT FREE** ($2 from Street Magazine Poetry Project, PO Box 441019, Somerville, MA 02144): These poems (and the sketches by Chris Roy) are of Boston's homeless, and homelessness in general. The authors and the illustrator are, or recently were, in a state of rent-free living. Each poem speaks clearly of this lifestyle, but from the perspective of many different individuals. Much of this is quiet and sad, though it is never, ever resigned. There is something for all of us to learn from these voices. (D-14)(pj)

★★★★★

WORLD LETTER ($1 & 9x12 SASE from Jon Cone, 2726 E. Court St., Iowa City, IA 52245): International poetry, assembled and translated by Jon Cone. Some of this in fact edges over to prose, and Saavadra Fajardo's jumbled look at a "fabulous" city is perhaps midway between the two. There's a feel of polish just shy of pretense here, of literary craft and an economy of words; I suspect the translator's style has imprinted itself, as all the poems seem in the same general mood. Or perhaps it's just the selection process. Includes some hand-colored abstract drawings. (S-10)(MG)

POETRY NOTES

★★★★★

•Todd Moore's **DILLINGER** series has been picked up by Primal Publishing, which will issue the original 21 chapbooks as four larger volumes. The books will be $8.95 each, or you may prepay the complete set at $32. Contact Primal at 107 Brighton Ave., Allston, MA 02134 if you're interested.

★★★★★

•Mr. Cogito Press has announced the Don Chambers Memorial Poetry Contest, with a $100 prize for poems "dedicated to any aspect of social or political protest". Deadline is February 15, 1990. For full rules, send SASE to PO Box 66124, Portland, OR 97266.

★★★★★

•**POETRY MOTEL** is coming back, and they're looking for submissions for upcoming issues. Contact them at 1619 Jefferson, Duluth, MN 55812.

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BY
HIS HOLINESS

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WHAT COULD THIS MEAN?
Nat Robb '89

PAMPHLETS, BOOKLETS, LEAFLETS AND OTHER ONE-SHOTS

ART STRIKE 1990-1993 ($1 *CASH* from ASAC(CA), PO Box 170715, San Francisco, CA 94117): There's this batch of avant-garde artists calling for a three-year strike beginning next year, by all artists, to free arts from capitalist exploitation. It won't work, of course, and their strident propaganda already admits this. But it will give them the chance to congratulate themselves on being the vanguard and criticize everyone else. I think it's stupid idea, and certainly intend not to participate. If you're interested, this is as good a way as any to find out more, a compilation of tracts and quotes by an international cast. (M-24t)

★★★★★

D.S. Black, **AFTERSHOCK TREATMENT** ($1 & SASE from 537 Jones St. #9156, San Francisco, CA 94102): Black lives in San Francisco, and this is an account of one person's experiences in the aftermath of the Oct. 17 quake. Among other things, Black reports on widespread crime including personal assaults, which reports seem to have been drowned on this coast by all the "survivors pulling together" stuff. (S-8t)

★★★★★

BOOK REVIEW: AMERICA'S MONEY MACHINE ($1 [order #1140] from Library of Truth, PO Box 19523, Denver, CO 80219): More of a condensation than a review, this one strips out the basic facts from Elgin Greenclose's history of the Federal Reserve. The author of the review argues that not only is the Fed unconstitutional, it's largely responsible for an almost 20,000% depreciation in value of our money. (D-8r)

★★★★★

Grace Braun, **BONELESS** ($1 from Bangaway Productions, 1460 Cornell Rd., Atlanta, GA 30306): A small pamphlet which looks at the link between women, advertising, and meat in the media today. By using collages and newspaper images, it makes a strong statement about the objectification of women. (D-11)

★★★★★

Donald F. Busky, **A HISTORY OF U.S. IMPERIALISM** ($1 (?) from Socialist Party, 516 W. 25th St., New York, NY 10001): A handy reference guide to US misbehavior over the past century or so, covering the slaughter of Native Americans, intervention in Latin America, Vietnam, support for South Africa, and other attempts to make the world safe for capitalism. Not footnoted, but seems pretty accurate. It ends with a pitch for democratic socialism. (D-10t)

★★★★★

THE CAMPUS CRUSADE AGAINST CHRIST PRESENTES: "HOW DUMB CAN CHRISTIANS GET?" (SASE from Boxholder, PO Box 303, Durham, NC 03824): The subtitle is "Write to these people and find out". Inside this little tract (with its blasphemous front cover picture of Jesus crucified on a telephone pole) there are bits of literature from some far right Christian groups. I presume the makers of this pamphlet think they're loony-tunes. They may be right. (M-4)

★★★★★

Peter Cannon, **THE SKY GARDEN** ($1 from Roger Reus, 941 Huron Ave., Richmond, VA 23229): Cannon has written a rather charming if minor tale in somewhat the same vein as early Lovecraft: the curiously-discovered manuscript telling of a fantastic adventure. But unfortunately the publisher has ruined the story by setting it in a compressed type which is almost impossible to read. Perhaps worth puzzling at if you're a fanatic about the genre; otherwise, no. (D-12)

★★★★★

CRACKER (On Request from 8607 Tuscany #101, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293): A small collection of photocopy, found and collage art. My copy came packed in a plastic garbage bag but who knows what will happen to yours. I imagine a trade of something odd would be appropriate. (S-8)

★★★★★

Denise Dee, **HIDDEN THINGS** ($1 or so from 29a Guy Pl., San Francisco, CA 94105): Forget all the videotapes and newspaper reports; this is the most affecting thing I've seen come out of San Francisco since the earthquake. Denise was talking to the project director of the AIDS project where she works when the floor started rolling and she seems to have had sort of a negative epiphany: "the world is shaking for them everyday and we need to stop it" is the concluding line here. Stark sharp vignettes and open feelings combine to get the gravity of the terror across. (D-12)

★★★★★

Ross Dreyer and Robert Ovetz, **STRUGGLE NOT STUDY: AN ANLYSIS OF STUDENT STRUGGLES AND THE ONGOING "CRISIS OF EDUCATION"** (50¢ (?) from Department of Sociology, Graduate student mailbox, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712-1088): As far as I can tell, this Marxist-flavored pamphlet is a demand that society support students (via financial aid) so the students will have the money to overthrow society (via a crisis of capitalism tied to the crisis of education). it does not make a whole lot of sense to me. Given that schools are training grounds for future workers, why not just get the heck out of the schools? (D-8t)

★★★★★

Marc Eric Ely-Chaitlin, **A CRITIQUE OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF ANARCHISM** ($1 from Central News Service, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): I have read cogent critiques of anarchism (Nozick, for example, springs to mind). This isn't one of them. From the start (where he confuses anarchism with individualism) to the end (where he demonstrates no awareness that "libertarian" was a synonym for "anarchist" before it was hijacked by the laissez-faire capitalists), Ely-Chaitlin demonstrates no understanding and less sympathy for his subject. A hatchet job which, I suspect, was provoked by his personal disagreements with a number of anarchist writers. (HL-5r)

★★★★★

ENCYCLOPEDIA PSYCHEDELICA ($2 from Arglebargle, 7630 Alicia, St. Louis, MO 63143): More revelations from the mystic Arglebargle Society, which takes off where Discordians, SubGenii, and Tim Leary leave off. The put-ons are more bizarre than ever, the doctrines more twisted, and the illustrations even cheesier. Polkas and Billy Carter play key parts in their theories of the universe. (D-32r)

★★★★★

EUPHEMISMS (Norman Shapiro, PO Box 101, Brightwaters, NY 11718): Actually, that's Norman's imprint rather than a particular title; he sent me half a dozen chapbooks of xerographic experimentation and eroticism. But they're all in the same general area and you can get a catalog for an SASE, so I'll put them together, The bulk of the contents here are drawn, in a very fluid, moving style, although some are written as well. Norman explores the bounds of pornography and eroticism, with plenty of homosexual and even autoerotic content. There seems to be a deliberate purpose to this, an effort to find out what art is and how it can be done. His latest project is computer-drawn, but well enough so that it doesn't stand out as being technologically clunky. (various)

★★★★★

FOCS Sessions I & II ($1 from Lifepact Project, PO Box 18698, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706): FOCS stands for Federation of Cryonics Societies, an idea which appears to be coming to fruition. This pamphlet records the discussions among various cryonicists towards such a goal at a recent conference, and reports on future plans. Probably of interest only to those who are thinking of cryonics themselves. (HL-12)

★★★★★

GOD AND LINCOLN ON NEGRO-WHITE MARRIAGES ($1/20 copies from T.K.M., PO Box 158, Lawrenceville, GA 30246): A rant against interracial marriage by someone who is quite convinced that the "white race" is made up of descendants of the tribes of Israel and that God forbid us to marry outside of that race. The anonymous author has a much stronger grasp on hate than on anthropology or history. (S-2t)

★★★★★

GRATEFUL GRATEFUL ($1 (?) from The Common Sense Store, PO Box 443 - Cross St., Island Pond, VT 05846): This appears to be a pamphlet from some born-again Deadheads to the rest of the touring community. Though his name is only mentioned once, it appears to urge them to discover Jesus as the way to true community. A handful of contact addresses are at the end; I just list the first, since they urge people to call or visit any time. Strange. (S-20t)

★★★★★

Hilary Hayes, **THE DAWN OPERATION** ($2 surface or $3 airmail *CASH* from BCM Omentide, London, WC1N 3XX, UK): A curious little booklet which tells a story although it does not take any of the usual forms of doing so. Rather, this is a rambling narrative of a magickal operation, told by one who was involved after the fact. The magickian, known only as Clem, conjures his own anima into solid form, and then runs afoul of its independence. This is all told in a series of digressions and asides, leaving the reader to puzzle out the significance of the facts related. Quite enjoyable. (A5-25r)

★★★★★

Sean Wolf Hill, **AVALANCHE DIODE** ($3 (?) from Sean Wolf Hill, 2730 Monroe-Concord Rd., Troy, OH 45373): The cover calls this a "novel", but what it really seems to be is a collection of scraps and scrawls from Sean's notebooks. Done on a number of typewriters and by hand and by collage over a twelve-year period, these stories and poems and fragments are pasted up at all angles to form sort of a recombinant literary virus that goes from the unemployment line to deep space SF. (S-32r)

★★★★★

Lina Hoshino & Nathan Falling Long, **THE LEMON TRIP: A COLORING BOOK** ($2 from Shattered Wig, 523 E. 38th St., Baltimore, MD 21218 *or* trade from 5526 Fair Oaks, Pigsburgh, PA 15217): The Lemon is a twenty-pound ceramic sculpture, vaguely lemon shaped. In this book (which the authors maintain is intended as a coloring book for kids), it goes on a trip across the country, watching Old Faithful erupt, eating in diners, meditating by the lake, and so on. These antics are documented in black and white photos with a minimum of text. A change of pace from the usual reading matter here, that's for sure. (HL-40)

★★★★★

I, CLAUDIA ($3 from A Distribution, 396 7th St. #2, Jersey City, NJ 07302): This is a polemic in the "Emperor has no clothes" vein from an independent woman who has found the feminist movement (at least in Britain in the late 80's) wanting. The anonymous author condemns "political dykes", anti-sexist men who are hypocritical violent types in private, the "Solid, respectable bourgeois face" of mainstream feminism, and the farce of graduate study. Coming from an independent working class point of view, her conclusion is that "Feminism, like every political movement, is a monumental construction of hypocrisy". There's a lot of interesting stuff, and a lot of truth, here—although, as with most polemics, I find it paints the picture rather too one-sidedly. (D-32t)

★★★★★

THE I.N.S.E.C.T. CONSTITUTION (45¢ SASE from Ol' Sam, 36 Erskine Dr., Morristown, NJ 07960): More formally, the title here is "The Official Consitution of The Intentionally Nonsensical Stevens Erisian Conspiracy and Temple", a student group at the Stevens Institute of Technology. This is basic Discordian silliness in a slightly organized fashion, with amusing points amidst the parliamentary rules. (S-6t)

★★★★★

Amnon Katz, **LIBERTY AND JUSTICE: WHY, HOW, AND FOR WHOM** ($1 from Inverted-A, 401 Forrest Hill, Grand Prairie, TX 75051): In this pamphlet Katz examines the notion of liberty and argues that there is a price to be paid—namely, that of "a spacious open world". He concludes that utilitarian libertarianism and socialism are opposite ends of a spectrum, each suited for particular population conditions. I don't agree with everything in here, but it is thought-provoking and well-written. (D-16t)

★★★★★

Joseph Kerrick, **AROUND AGAIN TO ARMAGEDDON** (SASE from PO Box 29145, Philadelphia, PA 19127): An essay which takes off from an examination of the current end of the millenium apocalyptic mindset and ends up in far stranger climes. Along the way Kerrick argues for the presence of a network of supergeniuses on earth (shades of the Invisible College) and discusses his theory that human history is a reenactment of the birth experience. (S-6)

★★★★★

Crad Kilodney, **BLOOD-SUCKING MONKEYS FROM NORTH TONAWANDA** ($4 from PO Box 281, Stn. S, Toronto, ONT, M5M 4L7, CANADA): Kilodney supports himself by selling his books in the street, and this cheerful anthology is evidence that he can do it. The title story here is a horror-pastiche, with rude interruptions from the author and even bits of hypnosis and someone else's novel thrown in. Later on there's "Happy-Go-Lucky Time", a modernized biker Bible story. Four stories in all, very flashy stuff, and screamingly funny in spots. (D-56)

★★★★★

Ben Klassen, **HOW TO OVERCOME THE REAL HATERS** (50¢ from Church of the Creator, PO Box 400, Otto, NC 28763): Klassen doesn't like Jews. Or Christians. Or "mud races". Or, apparently, anyone who believes in a kinder world or disagrees with his program to wipe out Jewish power, which apparently controls all of society. Hate literature that's proud of hating. The Church of the Creator also sent me several other pamphlets targeting the Federal Reserve, Christians, and anyone who believes in religion. (D-12t)

★★★★★

Kevin Langdon, **ANALYTICAL TRACKING, PART ONE** ($2 (?) from Polymath Systems, PO Box 795, Berkeley, CA 94701): This is the first part of Kevin's attempt to explain the system he uses for studying the workings of mind. "Analytical tracking is a study of the subject matter usually termed phenomenology (i.e., one's own psyche, examined from the inside)..." I don't think I can do the concepts justice explaining them second hand, but he seems to be strongly influenced by machine intelligence studies. This is presented as part experimental results, part how-to manual, though the latter is left sketchy in order that it may be fine-tuned by the reader. (D-30r)

★★★★★

THE LAST OF THE HIPPIES—AN HYSTERICAL ROMANCE (£1 (?) from AK Distribution, 3 Balmoral Place, Stirling, FK8 2RD, SCOTLAND): A reprint of a booklet from a boxed set of Crass LP's, written in 1982. It deals with the life and death of Wally Hope, hippie prophet murdered by the state in a mental institution. It's a cautionary tale of love and hope amidst the gray men who would prefer we all fit into their little boxes. Quite affecting. (A5-24t)

★★★★★

Vince Leo, **TIMETABLE PROJECT: FIRST BANKS** ($18.50 from Visual Arts Division, First Bank System, 120 S. Sixth St., Minneapolis, MN 55480, Attn: N. Braulick): An impressive looking bit of artistic documentation. First Banks had an art show including some Andy Warhol prints of Chairman Mao. This spiral-bound book holds copies of the angry letters this provoked, plus documentation of the show and China itself. Carefully designed graphics present the history of China and of Andy Warhol, and are set off by large photos. A coffee-table oneshot. (O-40t)

★★★★★

Brian Lovely, **ASH BRIDE** ($4 from 119-B W. Hubbard Ave., Columbus, OH 43215): Brian says he's writing "folktales generated by the subconscious". Well, his subconscious appears to be one sick puppy. This one combines images of sex and death in a church setting, and is sure to upset anyone with religious inclinations, since it gets pretty gross about things. Most people have little hypnogogic flashes of this sort of thing, but to have a whole booklet full is almost a bit much. (HS-16t)

★★★★★

Brian Lovely, **ASH KING** ($5 from 119-B W. Hubbard Ave., Columbus, OH 43215): As with lovely's other booklets, this one is illustrated by Exquisite Corpse team-drawings, but it also leads off with a color cover photo. Inside, the narrator is the Ash King, death and destruction personified—at least until he's rolling around in the gutter, being harassed by talking heads of Jarry and Lovecraft. Nightmares with an urban ambience. (D-16t)

★★★★★

Brian Lovely, **SOMEWHERE IN THE NIGHT** ($4 from 119-B W. Hubbard Ave., Columbus, OH 43215): A rather opaque yet nightmarish bit of adventure here. Much of it revolves around Lovely's search for and then experience with a lovely yet enigmatic woman, who ends up going the way of all flesh. Indeed, nothing in this story is permanent. Lovely's writing is compelling, although I'm not always sure what he's on about. (HS-16t)

★★★★★

David McCord, **EXERCISING DEMONS** ($2.50 from PO Box 9439, Berkeley, CA 94709): A collection of 21 short-short stories, or as the author calls them, "precocious vignettes". These span a lot of genres, from a bit of slice of life during a football riot to strange alien invaders and other science fictional situations. I especially liked the one about the CIA's plot to induce paranoia by putting a chemical on the back of postage stamps. At about two pages each, these are quick reads, and while some are open-ended, most make a satisfying slice. (D-64r)

★★★★★

David McCord, **EXPLETIVE** ($1.50 from PO Box 9439, Berkeley, CA 94709): I guess this must be conceptual art. Some people say pornography is repetitive, but it has nothing on this booklet. A one-line expletive is repeated, over and over and over again, with computer-like regularity, throughout the book. Why? (D-40)

★★★★★

Henry Miller, **AN OPEN LETTER TO STROKER!** ($10 from Writers Unlimited, RD #2, Box 280, Harveys Lake, PA 18618): This one was published in 1978 but I suspect there are still copies available since they just sent me one. The open letter is about Tommy Trantino, prison author and artist who Miller was quite taken by. In addition to Miller's praise, there are some original drawings from his pen, plus an excerpt from Trantino's own book. A definite collector's item. (D-24t)

★★★★★

Mike Miskowski, **APPLIANOIDAL GRPHCUS BIRTHDAY ELAPS** ($4 from Abscond, 2251 Helton Dr. #N7, Florence, AL 35630): A collection of Miskowski's computer graphics work, which has been gradually receding from reality as he explores the pixillated vision of the world. The "Applianoids" in this chapbook, for example, have very little in common with pictures of appliances. The underlying fascination with visible technology is still here, but now it's overlaid with a heavy dose of invisible technology in the form of electronic reshapings. (D-28 & M-8)

★★★★★

Perry Natal & Frank Key, **DEREK THE DUST-PARTICLE** (£2 from Indelible Inc., BCM Box 1698, London WC1N 3XX, UK): A children's book which Key (the illustrator) says is "suitable for children of all ages, from 90 to 91". Despite the colorful cover and the alternate pages of story and drawings, I suspect many kids would find this too challenging, with its cast of an animated (though not very photogenic) dust particle, aliens, and the residents of a rooming house somewhere in England. But I certainly enjoyed its wacky humor. (M-36t)

★★★★★

NO PAY-TO-PLAY BOOKLET ($1 from Ben is Dead, PO Box 3166, Hollywood, CA 90028): "Pay-to-Play" is a widespread phenomenon in Los Angeles area nightclubs, where bands are paid in tickets and have to sell them to have any hope of breaking even on gigs; if not, they owe the promoter or club owner a ton of money. Needless to say, many struggling music folks are upset with this policy, and there has been a good deal of organizing over the issue lately. This handy resource lists which clubs and promoters in the area are free of the problem, as an aid to anyone who cares to boycott P2P shows. (D-16t)

★★★★★

PASSING LAWS AGAINST FLAG BURNING ISN'T ENOUGH! (SASE from Hippycore, PO Box 195, Mesa, AZ 85211): A little tract that calls on Congress to do more in the way of protecting the flag from disrespect. Meanwhile, they offer their own guidelines for activities to avoid in the presence of Old Glory, including teenage drinking, rock music, and spitting. (M-8)

★★★★★

Julee-Peezlee, **HUNTING** (75¢ from PO Box 17863, Denver, CO 80217): A collage zine devoted to its title subject, from the point of view of one who is against the whole activity. The cover leads offf with "It's Not About Sport It's About Death", and inside proceeds through several of the traditional anti-hunting arguments in a visual way, including one page with a color photo. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE PETA GUIDE TO COMPASSIONATE LIVING ($2 (?) from PO Box 42516, Washington, DC 20015-0516): This is a basic primer on the lives of food animals (plus other issues, like cosmetics testing) from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, one of the most hardcore animal-rights groups. In words and pictures, they suggest that we can avoid mistreating animals, that not eating meat can be better for us, and that we have a responsibility to do so. Not too graphic, but blunt enough to make the point. (S-32t)

★★★★★

Robin Plan, **GOOD-BYE RADIO, HELLO HAPPINESS** ($3 from 2407-K S. Fifth St., Austin, TX 78704): A chronicle of Robin's first month in Austin, trying to adjust to a new city and lack of a job.

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It's extremely strong writing, blunt and honest and open and all those good things, from someone who isn't exactly having fun all the time but is determined to get it all down on paper. Getting hassled on the street, being moody at shows, drunken rants about what's wrong with today's youth, and thoughts about friendship all mix together in a variety of styles to form a compelling mosaic. I'm impressed. (S-36)

★★★★★

PUBLIC MENACE ($1 (?) from GS, 31209 E. Lake Morton, Kent, WA 98031): A collection of documents telling the author's story. Basically, he was fired (after having to talk to the cops) for writing a threatening letter to his airline's frequent flyer program. Weird. Don't screw with Northwest, I guess. (D-12r)

★★★★★

Alon K. Raab, **ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST: DESTRUCTION AND RESISTANCE IN N.W. PORTLAND** ($2 (?) from Albanian Poodle Press, PO Box 40112, Portland, OR 97240): A sort of anarchist pamphlet inspired by the struggle to save some old houses which stood in the path of development. Alon relates the struggle, the civil disobedience, the lessons in politics. But he also talks of the neighborhood, the fauna in the area, and the hope for the children. Although the greedheads won this round, the pamphlet manages to retain some hope for the future. (D-36)

★★★★★

Paul Rutherford, **RAIN** (£1 (?) from AK Distribution, 3 Balmoral Place, Stirling, FK8 2RD, SCOTLAND): A series of ruminations on rain and our interactions with it. The main theme seems to be that of being out in the rain and having it drag oneself down; though the gentle warm rains rate on mention, nasty large drops, mud and slush come in for rather more attention. (A5-12r)

★★★★★

Miriam Sagan, **THE PATHS FROM THE NUDIST BEACH** ($1.50 from Samisdat, PO Box 129, Richford, VT 05476): This is the first short story I've seen from Miriam and I like it quite as much as her poetry. The story of a young woman and her sisters and a nude beach and, oh, a lot of things, it doesn't have a point so much as a feel to it. Life is strange, it seems to say, but that's OK, because a lot of it works out in the end. Sagan has a fine eye for the unreality of everyday life, and her characters stand out sharply in memory. (D-28t)

★★★★★

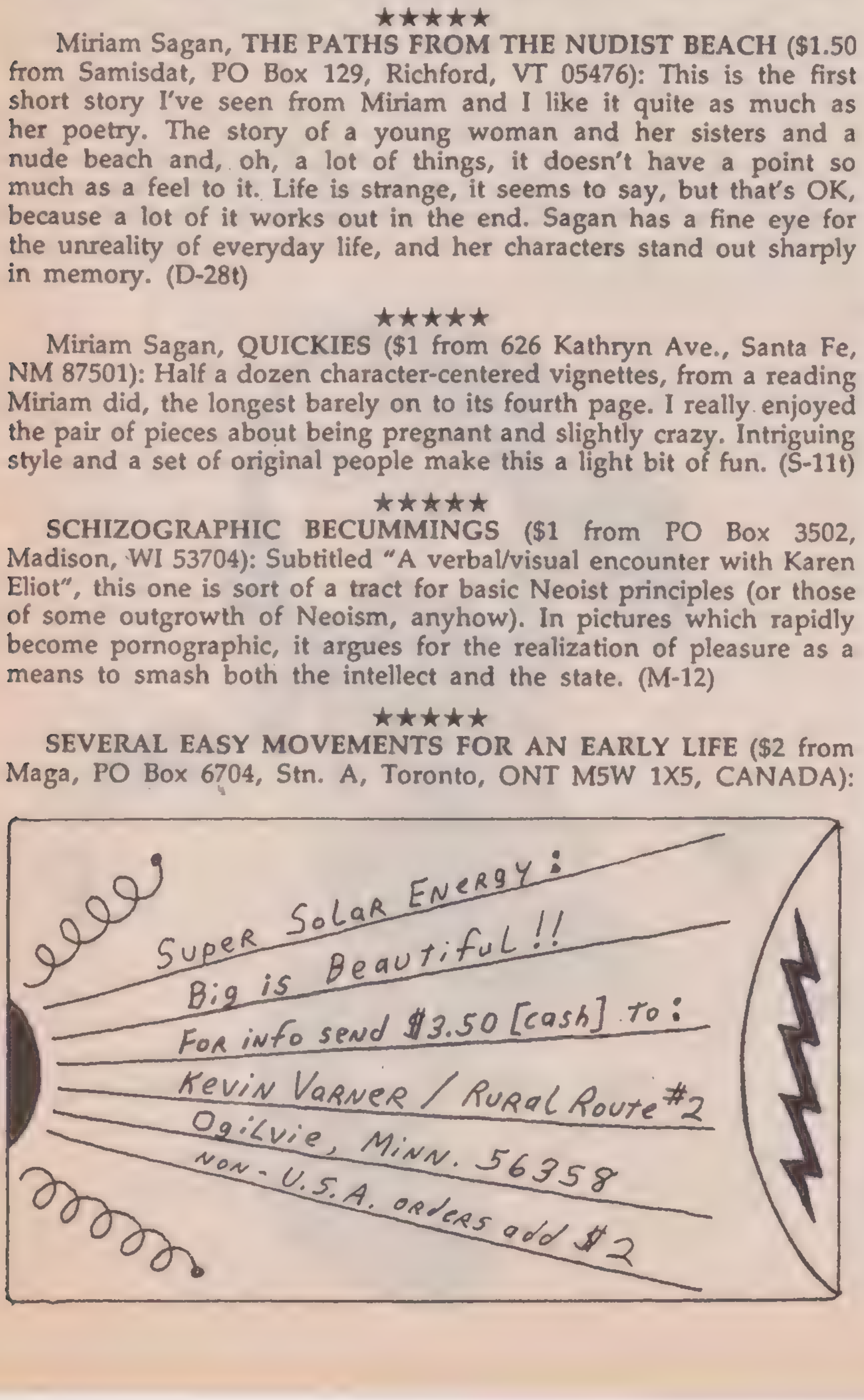
Miriam Sagan, **QUICKIES** ($1 from 626 Kathryn Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87501): Half a dozen character-centered vignettes, from a reading Miriam did, the longest barely on to its fourth page. I really enjoyed the pair of pieces about being pregnant and slightly crazy. Intriguing style and a set of original people make this a light bit of fun. (S-11t)

★★★★★

SCHIZOGRAPHIC BECUMMINGS ($1 from PO Box 3502, Madison, WI 53704): Subtitled "A verbal/visual encounter with Karen Eliot", this one is sort of a tract for basic Neoist principles (or those of some outgrowth of Neoism, anyhow). In pictures which rapidly become pornographic, it argues for the realization of pleasure as a means to smash both the intellect and the state. (M-12)

★★★★★

SEVERAL EASY MOVEMENTS FOR AN EARLY LIFE ($2 from Maga, PO Box 6704, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1X5, CANADA): This is a marvel of packaging, loose digest-sized sheets inside a sewn bag of heavy fabric. The sheets alternate between enigmatic, commanding words written on music paper and drawings of somewhat blobby creatures, twisted about and looking for a release from the cares of life. "By rights, the discovery of selfishness leads to hope", proclaims one page. (D-40)



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Ellis Sharp, **GIACINTA'S CLAMS** (£2.50 from Malice Aforethought Press, 328 Brettenham Road, London E17 5AU, UK): Sharp is a maddening writer. His words are well-chosen, his sentences make perfect sense, his paragraphs get woozy with digressions and non sequitirs, and his chapters abandon all sense entirely. The thread of the story, such as I can make it out, is about the search for a character from Jane Eyre, conducted by an unlikely band of bilingual detectives and ranging across Europe both in history and geography. Seductively interesting prose that leaves a thicket of confusion in its wake. (D-30t)

★★★★★

SILENT REVOLT! ($1 from PO Box 1445, Hillsboro, OR 97123): A bit of political propaganda subtitled "Re-Elect Nobody! A Prospectus For Retaking Control Of Our Government". Their basic premise is simple: that the Congress is a bunch of arrogant fools, and the simplest way to remedy this is to never, ever vote for an incumbent. They offer bumperstickers and other aids to spreading the message. (D-12t)

★★★★★

John Six, **LEBEN HOME FOR ADULTS** ($1 (?) from PO Box 7792, Rego park, NY 11374): A collection of clippings, collages and cartoons circulating around the situation of the mentally ill in today's society. There seems to be an attempt to capture the fear and confusion here, as well as a sort of funhouse-mirror view of the world from the inside of a "home" out. (D-24t)

★★★★★

Gerald L. Sprouse, **SILENT REVOLT, DEADLY REVOLT (THE SOLUTION WHOSE TIME HAS COME)** (50¢ & SASE from PO Box 830, Ooltewah, TN 37363): Another introduction to the Silent Revolt idea, cast in the form of an article for newsletters (Publishers can get it, and reprint rights, for free). Sprouse argues that this is an idea whose time has come, and suggests that we all get moving on it. (S-3)

★★★★★

THE TABLOID POSTER BOOK and **CULT EXPLOITATION MOVIE POSTERS** ($6 each from Shake Books, 449 12th St. #2-R, Brooklyn, NY 11215): Two new tabloids of classic reproductions. **THE TABLOID POSTER BOOK** features classic covers from the 1960s of publications like **THE KEYHOLE** and **NATIONAL ENQUIRER**: "Nursing School Made Me a Lesbian...And I'm Glad it Did!" "Women Were Made for Sex, says Sophia Loren". The other collection features PR for some of the silliest movies ever made. My favorite: "Surfside Sex...Their LSD Parties Always Led to High-Flying KICKS!!" Some of the posters here sufffer from moire patterns caused by re-screening, but generally the quality is quite high. (T-32)

★★★★★

Allen Thornton, **TWO PARADOXES** (On Request from Mermaid Press, PO Box 183, Vermilion, OH 44089): A short essay in which Allen takes on the philosophical concept of meterialism and finds it wanting. He argues that there is more to life than just atoms, that their pattern is equally important but somehow not part of the materialist conception. He admits that he doesn't disprove materialism, and I rather suspect he argues against a straw man, but it's fun reading anyhow. (S-5)

★★★★★

Joseph A. Uphoff, Jr., **TEARDROP (A CARTOON)** ($2 (?) from Arjuna Library Press, 1025 Garner St. #18, Colorado Springs, CO 80905): A short story that departs from the author's usual mathematical symbolism to hijack some scientific language and go into the science fiction business. It's a vast story, similar to Stapledon's in scope, yet written in a difficult to penetrate style that makes it an exercise in frustration. There may even be a moral buried beneath this interstellar journey, but I don't know what it is. (D-32)

★★★★★

Kevin Varner, **SUPER SOLAR ENERGY: BIG IS BEAUTIFUL!!** ($3.50 *CASH* from Kevin Varner, RR 2, Ogilvie, MN 56358): Varner argues that there's no reason for solar energy to be decentralized and one good reason—variable numbers of clear days—for it to be centralized. He proposes covering 50,000 or so square miles of desert with collectors mounted on his own lightweight heliostat system. There's some good ideas here, and some that alternative energy folks will find merely outrageous. But it does represent an attempt to think afresh about problems of energy supply. (S-12)

★★★★★

WAITING FOR JUSTICE ($4.95 from Shannon Wheeler, 2150 Dwight, Berkeley, CA 94704): A collection of cartoons from Wheeler and columns from Carolyn Jones, both reprinted from the Berkeley **Daily Californian**. The comics are full of college plights, girlfriends, finals, and so on—quite funny if you've been through it all recently. And I did enjoy the one about anarchists. Carolyn's columns are also in the vein of humor, though sometimes they get more contemplative, as with the listing of "Dogs I Have Killed". The one on the five stages of dealing with academe is a classic. (HL-35t)

★★★★★

WAKELEY'S REALISMS ($1 (?) from Joseph Wakeley, 9 Oregon Ave., Palmyra, NJ 08065): A short essay by Joseph about being in the Army—or, more accurately, about getting out of it. He accomplished this after re-enlisting by getting sloppy drunk and telling his Senator he was ready to kill himself if not discharged. A true-life story of a rotten job. (S-4)

★★★★★

Jason Walters, **TEARS** (50¢ stamps from 526 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): Jason is still exploring the mythic depths of the soul, the art of being human, and violent death—I think. In any case, this is a novelette about police inspector Saul Goodman (is it only a coincidence that he shares a name with one of the lead characters in **ILLUMINATUS!**? I wonder) and his attempts to solve a rash of deaths in his city, with people being glad to die. It's a strange story, one with spiritual undercurrents and gonzo overtones, and I rather enjoyed it. (M-20r)

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★★★★★

WHAT IS MANGOISM? (FREE from Mellow Mango, Apt. #18B Beal's Cove Rd., Hingham, MA 02043): This little pamphlet explains the basic tenets of Mangoism, a rather strange punk-rock based faith. Another entry in the new and oddball religion sweepstakes. This one prohibits eating eyeballs and elevates Danny Partridge to Messiah status, among other things. (S-2)

★★★★★

Julian "Jeff" F. Williams, **THE ASYLUM** ($1 from PO Box 116805, Carrollton, TX 75011): Short bits of writing about the world seen from inside a sanitarium. Or perhaps, as the narrator suggests in the first bit here, the world *is* the sanitarium. A bit scary, a bit predictable. (D-8)

★★★★★

Arol Wulf, **NOTES FROM ZENDIK FARM** ($2 (?) from 1431 Tierra del Sol Rd., Boulevard, CA 92005): Zendik Farm is a commune down in Southern California, and Arol is one of its mainstays. This is a short booklet of ruminations on nature and man and their relations. It tends to be pretty well opposed to civilization while not romanticizing the ease of a life without it. Gentle, caring, hopeful, and committed, these short essays can help to inspire you to think of a better way the world could be. (D-40r)

★★★★★

YOU'VE GOT A RIGHT TO ROCK: DON'T LET THEM TAKE IT AWAY ($3 from PO Box 15052, Long Beach, CA 90815): Put together by the editors of **ROCK & ROLL CONFIDENTIAL**, this one charts the rise of censorship directed against popular music in this country today. Pretty scary shit. In addition to laying out some history and happenings, they look at the "fools and hypocrites" leading the drive, and make some suggestions on what rockers can do to fight back. If you don't want the FBI telling you what to listen to, you should probably read this and take it to heart. (S-16t)

PAMPHLET NOTE

•The folks from Tray Full of Lab Mice Publications (c/o Melissa & Matt Jasper, PO Box 303, Durham, NH 03824) have managed to score a bunch of official Kirby vacuum cleaner corporate song books—no more cheap photocopied imitations. You can get a copy from them for $2.

MARK 89
NEVILLE

CURMUDGEON CORNER

by Garry DeYoung

"If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other, it is the principle of free thought—not free only for those who agree with us, but freedom for the thought we hate."—Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

"Although I may disagree with what you say, I will fight to the death, for your right to say it."—Voltaire.

George Orwell, in his book 1984 called attention to the use of words in propaganda and how their meanings have changed. By clever manipulation of words we have done the same thing—the War Department is now the Defense Department and will undoubtedly soon be called the Peace Department as war becomes peace.

So it has become with our Constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech having been turned around so that denial of freedom of speech is called freedom of speech. The same principle has been applied to the press.

Almost all of the lawsuits I have brought since the 1984 elections have dealt with obstructions to my right of free speech, with my right to access to the public as a political candidate.

One of these cases is now in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and concerns the refusal of Iowa Public Broadcasting to permit me to participate in the political debates with two other senatorial candidates, Roger Jepsen and Tom Harkin.

Although Iowa Public Broadcasting is supported in part by public funding and is represented in court by the Iowa Attorney General, the federal district court has ruled that it is the right of Iowa Public Broadcasting to deny access to the public, that this constitutes the First Amendment guarantee. Surely, this is nonsense.

Back in 1984 it was also the Iowa Civil Liberties Union which refused to provide me space in its newspaper so I could present my views to its readership. So much for the Iowa Civil Liberties Union.

Here in Iowa we have a left wing newspaper called the **U.S. FARM NEWS** which is published by the U.S. Farmers Association. In 1984 I asked permission to speak before that organization at its annual meeting. I was denied that opportunity.

In both 1984 and 1988 when I ran for Congress I asked for support from the Iowa "liberals" and this was denied, including support from the Iowa Atheist organization which refused to even announce my candidacy. That candidacy was also kept from the national "Humanists" and Atheists and their strong support went to Roman Catholic activist Tom Harkin, the man who received $10,000 from **LIFE** magazine for submitting to them a photograph of the "tiger cages" in which Vietnamese kept their prisoners.

Presently I have a jury trial coming up early next year against the Director of the Spencer Senior Citizen Center for pulling the microphone plug when I was speaking to the Center, disrupting my talk and inflaming the audience against me. This incitement constitutes use of the power of the state to intrude into and interfere with the political process, the most serious and heinous offense of which a public servant is capable.

I had won this lawsuit by the default of the Defendant who failed to respond to the demands of the Court in timely fashion and yet the Court permitted the attorney for the Defense to make demands upon me in the form of interrogatories and a deposition, and complied with his demand for jury trial. In Iowa it is virtually impossible to obtain a jury without bias against Atheists.

Throughout all of these cases I have demanded legal representation on the basis of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and this has been consistently denied until earlier this year when I was assigned a prestigious law firm in Sioux City to represent me. I think this establishes a new precedent. At least, to my knowledge, it is not a common practice although it should be, and here is why:

The United States Constitution provides that a *Defendant* in a criminal case must be provided with legal representation. Now this sounds fair and seldom will anyone challenge this concept. However, I have challenged it and I do so today. Think about it for a moment. If you are walking down the street and someone hits you with a baseball bat and breaks your back *you* are the victim and the person who hit you with the ball bat is the assailant.

If you have a lot of money you can hire a good lawyer. The more money you have, the better the lawyer, the bigger the law firm to fight on your behalf. If you have no money you can't even pay the filing fee and cannot gain access to the courts, to justice.

The person who hit you with the ball bat is the Defendant and no matter how wealthy he may be, the Court will provide him with a lawyer and full legal representation. This means that the Courts are on the side of the villain, the defendant. If you are a low income person you are at a decided disadvantage in this legal situation and your right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment has been violated. That is my argument in *demanding* legal representation as the Plaintiff, as the *victim*!

This battle coming up in federal court in Sioux City is a landmark battle and I finally have a good lawyer with the resources to wage the battle, the outcome of which will affect every person under the jurisdiction of the United States of America.

I ask for as many supporters as possible to take the time to attend this hearing. The Iowa media, especially the Des Moines Register and the Sioux City Journal will do their best to suppress the news of this event and the broadcast media will also pretend it does not exist. This is why you have not heard anything about all of my other cases in the national media.

I am asking every publisher receiving this issue of **FACTSHEET FIVE** to reprint this explanatory appeal and to use all the networking resources you have available to insure a strong turnout at this trial.

I am especially asking for support from those who were activists in the Free Speech movement of the sixties because it is you who understand the magnitude of those forces of apathy and repression against whom this battle is being waged.

George Orwell was correct when he wrote his novel 1984. Now is the time to write another novel, the novel of 1990, when the *true* American Publishers and Editors, the *real* Americans will have taken the helm of this ship of state and call to the attention of the world which is watching us so closely that this nation of Thomas Paine, of Abraham Lincoln, of Thomas Jefferson, of all those stalwart pioneers who sacrificed their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, have not died in vain.

Let us show the world that the puppets of the corporate state may have won the PAC support to put them into Congress, but that it is We, The People, who through our demonstrations still reign supreme.

Thomas Paine wrote of the times that try men's souls, of the summer soldier and the dastardliness of the traitorous Tories which must be thrown out. That fight continues to this day and it is the Tory mentality and the Tory influence which we are confronting.

"Is Life So Sweet"—Patrick Henry! Remember?

If I, having had six bypasses, and at the age of sixty-six can take the brunt of this battle, surely those of you who are younger, much younger by far, can at least provide me with that moral support I so much need in federal court. Write me for details in case there are changes at the last minute in the court schedule.

Here in Sioux City we have thrown down the gauntlet and it is here that We, the True Americans, will recapture the flag which rightly belongs to us!

That flag was won for us by my wife's great, great, great grandfather who fought in the Revolution against the Tories. It was won by her great grandfather at Gettysburg as part of the Cherry Valley, New York battalion under General Abner Doubleday and that flag was won for us by her father who fought in World War I, and that flag was won by me when I earned my six battle stars during World War II.

I know our American heritage and I am proud of that heritage. It is decidedly *not* the heritage of the Tammany Hall crowd, of the cruel Spaniards of Prescott's account of the conquests of Mexico and Peru. It is not the heritage of the Teapot Dome scandal, the murdering of Joe Hill and Sacco and Vanzetti in Utah and Colorado. It is not the heritage of the whipping post in Delaware and the Dutch slave trade.

Our heritage is the heritage of the people struggling to be heard, to have control over their own destiny, to be free from the tyranny of church and state, to be able to be free men and free women.

This is what this trial is all about!

(You can reach Garry De Young at PO Box 7252, Spencer, IA 51301-7252.)

Anni Ackner's
STARS on ONE

Confession, I have heard it said—generally by the sort of people whose idea of a deep, dark secret has something to do with eating peanut butter with their fingers when no one is looking—is good for the soul. Sharing one's faults, errors and foibles with another human being can serve to lessen the burden on one's conscience, I am told, free one's mind from the debilitating cycle of self-recrimination and guilt to which we are all sometimes subject, and offer one renewed hope of forgiveness and the courage to strive for self-improvement. (That it also has a tendency to leave one open to a good sock on the jaw is another subject entirely, one which I fortunately feel absolutely no compulsion to discuss here). Confession, to hear these people tell it, is the neatest thing to happen to the human condition since the invention of bathrooms with doors that locked, and ought to be indulged in at every possible opportunity.

While I, myself, would hardly go as far as all that (there are at least seven different possible opportunities of which I can think without even breaking a sweat in which confession ought not to be indulged, most of them concerning that lovely new fellow with the doctorate and the classic Prosche 911T and one's bygone entertaining evenings with various sports teams), there are, nevertheless, moments when even I can see the usefulness and efficacy of confession, and times when even I feel the need to unburden myself. The plain, unvarnished truth of the matter is that, even as we speak, there is a dank, festering secret pressing upon my soul, a weight so oppressive that, for my own sanity, I am now compelled to share it with you, my nearest and dearest friends, secure in the knowledge that it will, of course, remain Just Between Us, and you will never betray me to an uncaring, unforgiving world. The truth is painful and dire, but it must be told.

I have not seen **Batman**.

Oh, I know. I *know*. I can scarcely credit that such a thing could be, myself, and yet, I cannot go on living this vicious lie. I am, possibly, the last remaining sentient human being in the United States—and certainly the only Visual Arts Critic, which admittedly is an entirely different thing—who has not seen **Batman**. It's shameful, it's humiliating, it's painful, but it's true nevertheless; I can't deny it.

And, you know, it all started out so innocently, too. I'd meant to see **Batman** right from the start, from the moment, in fact, back in—strange to think of it now—April, when I was treated to my first sight of what was possibly the first **Batman** trailer—in a long and honourable line of **Batman** trailers—released, amd marveled at what I considered to be an inspired bit of casting—Jack Nicholson as the Joker—and pondered what I considered to be an intriguing bit of casting—Michel Keaton as Batman. I made up my mind then and there to see the film..

Well, I'm certain you've heard what is rumoured about that road to hell. When I made my original vow—and this is scarcely an excuse, but only an attempt at explanation—I had no way of knowing what **Batman** was to become. Confronted, as I was, with a four hour wait at each of the three local theatres showing the film, I simply thought, at first, "Well, okay. I don't have to see it immediately. It will be around for a while. I'll catch it in a month or two, when the furor dies down." (All right, all right. That wasn't exactly my *first* thought. My first thought ran something along the lines of "I wouldn't stand on line for four hours to see George Bush being pelted with shoo-fly pies by Molly Yard", but it *was* my second thought. I promise.) And I really and truly meant it, too. But then, oh, I don't have to tell you how it goes. Little kids in those tee-shirts with that logo that I still maintain resembles what's left of my mouth after my dentist has his annual carnival in it. Large functional illiterates with that logo carved into the back of their heads. Two hundred and fifty-thousand otherwise normal friends and relations ringing up to casually mention that the Joker dies. (Oh, dear Lord. You didn't know? Oh, I *am* sorry.) Magazine covers. Thought-provoking essays by Grown-Up Critics. Behind the scene with **Batman**. At home with **Batman**. Win a dream date with **Batman**. Frankly—and I wouldn't confess this to anybody but you—by the time **Batman** had worked its way down to the second-run theatres (where it was frequently shown in these parts, for inexplicable reasons, on a double-bill with a revival of **The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes**), I was beginning to harbour just the teensiest wish that the producers of The Film of the Decade had joined together with the producers of **Who Framed Roger Rabbit**, the producers of **E.T.**, and the fella who thought it would be just a dandy idea if Roger Daltry attempted to sing "Tommy" in public one more time, and opened a bait and tackle shop somewhere. The middle of the Kalahari, maybe.

So you see how it goes. And it's not like I'm not paying for it now, as well I should. It hasn't exactly been a picnic, you understand, skulking down side streets with the collar of my trenchcoat pulled high about my neck, ostracized from polite company, living in fear that, some moment, when I have let down my guard, when I have somehow forgotten my shame for one instant, some child will point a finger at me and announce, in its piping little voice "Look, Mommy. There goes the girl who hasn't seen **Batman**!" No, it hasn't been a picnic at all.

And, oh, I've tried to atone for it. I haven't exactly been sitting around, frivoling away my time in useless pursuits like reading or paying the gas bill while all this was going on—not at all. On the contrary, I have done my best to fill all those hours I've spent not seeing **Batman** with the sort of activities most prudent for a Visual Arts Critic: healthy, creative pastimes like thinking up new ways to make fun of Deborah Norville, and wondering how to get them to refill that valium prescription for one more month. Why, I've even done so far as to actually sit down and watch a little Visual Arts, which, when you consider what that sort of thing often entails, really ought to let me off the hook for anything short of assault and battery, Just consider, for instance, that while I haven't been seeing **Batman**, I *have* been seeing:

Honey, I Shrunk The Kids: The fact that I saw this affords positive proof, just in case anybody was still in doubt, that virtue is its own punishment. I had, you see, promised the neighbour kid that I would take him to see **Batman** (there it is again) for his birthday, but reneged when I saw the line that awaited us. In order to make up for this breach of politeness, I told him that we could see any other movie he chose, and this is the one he picked. We both might have been better off if I'd challenged him to a rousing game of touch football out in the middle of route 422. The type of movies that makes some people cringe when they say "Disney", this is jam-packed with zany sight gags, dumb adults, clever children, an adorable baby ant (don't even ask), a few second-rate spatial effects, a nauseatingly sweet ending, and the entirely wasted talents of Rick Moranis and Matt Frewer, both of whom spent most of the film looking as though they're dying for (a) a drink; (b) a couple of Extra-Strength Excedrin; and (c) new agents. Sometime after the baby ant joined the Joker in the Great Beyond (Nuts. Gave it away *again*), I joined Morpheus in Slumberland, and the kid wandered out into the lobby to play video games. As the kid is 9 and I was, at the time, 35, I can't, despite what the blurb says, recommend this movie for anyone anywhere near either of those ages. And, while we're on the subject, we also saw

Tummy Trouble: The aptly-named first "real" cartoon (as opposed to feature-length film) starring Roger Rabbit, which was shown in conjunction with **Shrunk The Kids** at most theatres. Of course, we know that I can't tolerate Roger Rabbit in the first place, and I'm not overjoyed by most cartoons in the second place (I understand that this is sacrilege for most Baby-Boomers, but Bugs Bunny and that crowd made me nervous when I was five, and I don't find they've much improved with age, mine or theirs), so, to be fair, I didn't go into this thing expecting to enjoy it, but what struck me was the utter cynicism of the whole Roger Rabbit business, Whatever else you can say about the old Warner Brothers and Looney Tunes cartoons, they were, at least, original. Beyond that, it was obvious that a certain amount of thought went into them, and it seems clear, even to me, that the people involved enjoyed making them, and were out to provide some entertainment, as well as make a buck. With Roger Rabbit, however, it is so clearly apparent that the prevailing thought was "We have a bunch of nostalgic 30-40 year olds on our hands. Let's give 'em something that *looks* like a Looney Tune, and they'll not only eat it up, they'll take their kids" that I'm surprised people don't boycott the thing in protest (unless, of course, The Best Minds of My Generation really are that easily manipulated, in which case I can only surmise that taking all that acid wasn't such a hot idea after all). To this end, **Tummy Trouble** is noisy, fast-paced, frenetic and violent, but not very much else. The plot is a rip-off of four or five other cartoons that I, who am not a fan, can think of off the top of my head, and Roger himself is merely a collection of moving frames, unlike his nearest relatives Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck who, as annoying as I find them, were invested with some kind of thought and emotional processes, and rudimentary senses of humour. I would say that the people involved with this venture ought to be ashamed of themselves, but I suppose that's hard to do when you're relaxing in your hot tub, counting your money.

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Turner and Hooch: This really was the summer for kids' movies jazzed up to look like adult films, wasn't it? Actually, this one didn't start out too badly—Tom Hanks as an obsessively neat detective gets saddled with a huge sloppy dog after its owner is murdered, a sort of cross-species Odd Couple set-up—and, really, if they'd left it at that, I might have got through it all right (I like movies about doggies, and I like Tom Hanks, even if I didn't think **Big** was as adorable as did everyone else), but no. In an attempt—I guess—to insure that the Grown-Ups in the audience didn't end up concentrating on picking popcorn kernels out of their teeth rather than watching the movie, they dragged in the Mafia—I think—a completely superfluous love interest, a couple of chase scenes, some shooting and, oh yeah, the doggie buys the farm, just like Old Yeller. The body count this summer was simply staggering. By the end of this film, I was part of it.

Steel Magnolias: I saw this one as a preview, and I;m taking the trouble to warn you about it before it gets to your neighbourhood theatre, so I hope you're all properly grateful, Receiving exactly the same publicity as did **Terms of Endearment**, **Steel Magnolias** virtually is **Terms** all over again right down to the fiery mother-daughter relationship so beloved in films and that just about never occurs in real life, the death (will somebody please, please, please make a movie in which nothing passes away Pretty please? Pretty please in a velvet lined casket?), infidelity, heartwarming stabs at humour, everything. The only difference is that this one spreads the doom out over six or seven women (it's hard to tell—they move around a lot) and also tosses in every cliche you've ever heard about the South, women, and women in the South. As if that wasn't enough—and apparently it weren't—the film also spends much of its time groveling before the Cult of Motherhood At All Costs, and do I have to tell you a man wrote this? Do I have to tell you a man wrote this in honour of his dear, departed sister who died just precisely like the girl in the movie dies? And do I have to tell you that everyone with whom I saw it walked out in tears, and thought I was a hard-hearted, grumpy old witch because I wasn't Utterly Moved? I don't know, maybe it is just me. Maybe nobody else cares that, in an age when we're on the verge of losing our right to safe abortions if we need them, the film that's destined to be the Hit of the Season depicts the glories of having an ill-advised baby at the risk of one's life. Maybe no one else gets nervous around the fact that it's obviously a rule in Hollywood that, is you make a movie that has more than two women, one of them has to die. Maybe no one else wonders why men get to make movies about women all the time, and say whatever they like, and hardly any women get the funding to do the same thing. Maybe I should spend the rest of my life holed up in my room, watching reruns of **Cagney and Lacey** and **Roseanne**. But, on the other hand, maybe not.

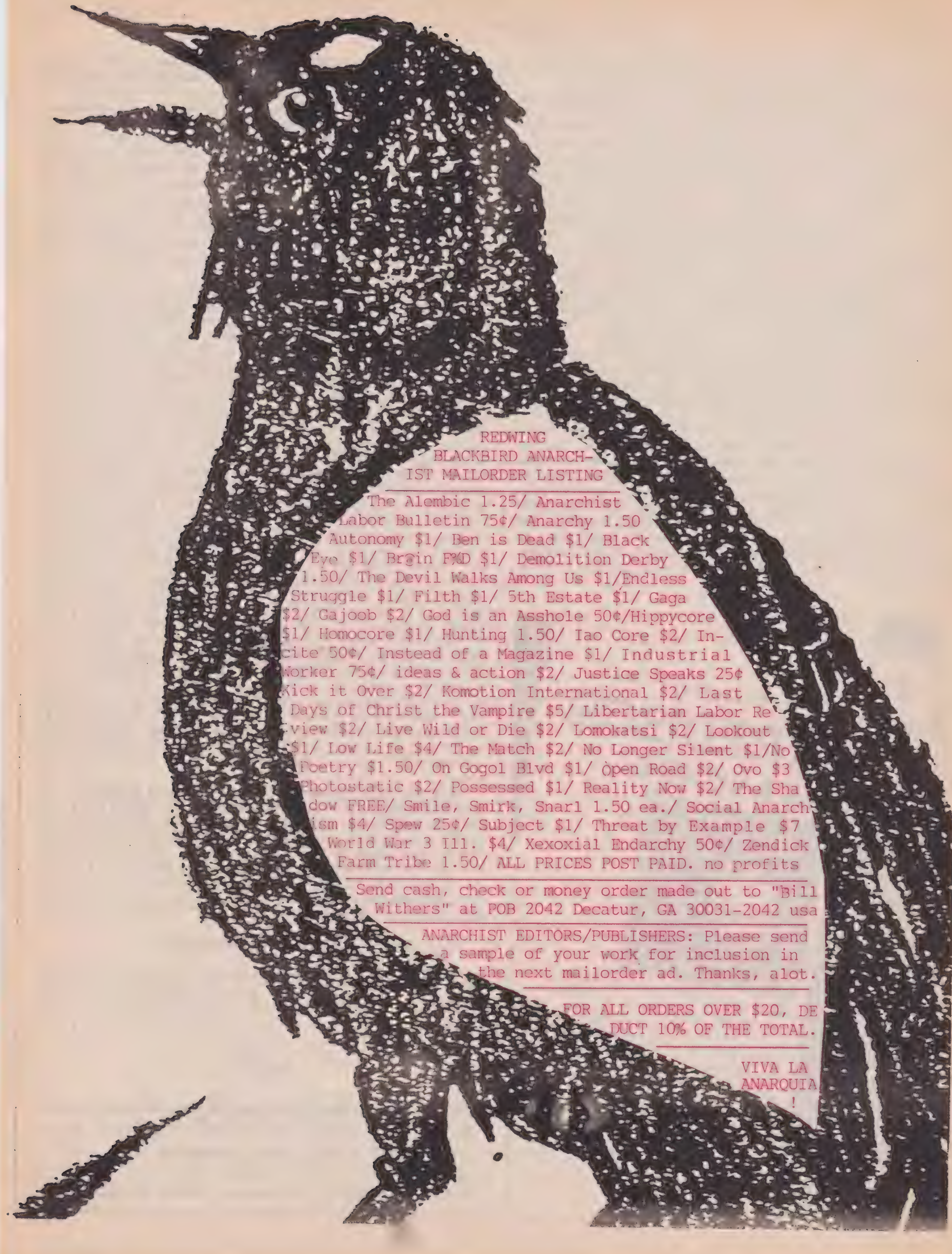
Does that make up for it? Haven't I suffered enough for my transgressions? Having now confessed, I can do naught more than beg your forgiveness and swear that sometime, someday, in some way, I will eventually see **Batman**. It might be in some dark little theatre, may years in the future, when the mania is but a dim memory and the film itself is being shown as a curiosity of a bygone era. It might be on a VCR or pay-cable channel, or even on a broadcast network, slashed to ribbons and spliced with commercials, but someday, I *will* see **Batman**. And then I'll tell you all about it.

Won't *that* be something to look forward to?

(You may reach Anni Ackner at PO Box 18, Reading, PA 19603.)

NOTICE

Garry De Young's Free Speech Jury trial in federal court in Sioux City has been postponed until after January 1st, 1990. Write Garry for details of this case at P.O. Box 7252, Spencer, Iowa 51301-7252.



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VIVA LA ANARQUIA !

HOW TO FORGET ABOUT JESUS AND CHANGE YOUR WHOLE LIFE!

by the Right Reverend Jesse Sump, Ancient Abbreviated Calif. of California, and Pastor Present of the First Evangelical and Unrepentant Church of No Faith (Discordian SubGenius)

FRENZIED CAMP MEETING!

Step forward and take the pledge to:

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For two thousand years people have been thinking about Jesus and where has it gotten them? Into wars, on one another's backs, down the dark road of feudalism, etc. So let J.R. "Bob" Dobbs tell you once and for all how to turn over a new leaf and *Forget About Jesus!*

Join our door-to-door crusade to help your neighborhood forget about Jesus.

"I prayed to Jesus once," says Rev. Jesse Sump, "And He appeared before me in a host of angels and said just to forget about Him, that He was sorry he ever said anything to begin with." Yes, folks, all thinking about Jesus causes is religion, and even religious people agree there are already too many of *those*, anyway.

Even Satanists make themselves miserable thinking about Jesus and about the people who think about Jesus all the time. So they, too, are invited to join our Jesus Obsessives Anonymous and call a person who will help, whenever that urge to think about Jesis is a temptation.

Enter our CASH PRIZE Testimonial Essay Contest: How I forgot about Jesus and what it did for me!

Street evangelist rap: "Pardon me, sir or madam, but have you forgotten about Jesus?"

Sir or madam: "No."

Evangelist: Well, then, why don't you? It might change your whole life, you might see things in a whole new, liberated, way!"

Sir or madam: "Get away from me before I call the police!"

At this point you will begin to get the point of what Jesus said to Rev. Sump, but don't be discouraged—that only proves how great the need is for people to Forget About Jesus!

Evangelist: "There are many equally interesting people to think about besides Jesus: Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, Bob Dylan, Pat Benetar, Huey Lewis and the News, Frank Sinatra, Emperor Joshua Norton, Vanessa Williams..."

Sir or madam: "You, sir, are a fanatic and an embarrassment!"

(Conversations like this seldom convert the sir or madam; it should be noted however that they help confirm the street evangelist in his or her own conviction that people should, in fact—or at least might as well—Forget About Jesus.)

How to forget about Jesus through hypnosis, prayer and the laying on of hands.

Testimonials: "I had thought about Jesus for years, and believe me, my life has been happier since I decided to think about something else."—Jesse Sump, A.A.C.C.

(The 23rd Olympics are sponsored by Sears—as Illuminati buffs may care to note).

"I spent the first half of my life being for Jesus and the second half of my life being against Jesus," testifies Dallas District attorney Frank V., "And then I learned how to forget about Jesus and just mind my own business. Until then, I had no idea my own business was so interesting!"

"There's no doubt about it," admits Pat Robertson, born-again fundamentalist preacher of TV's 700 Club, "Most people would be better off if they forgot about Jesus—so would their friends and neighbors and all the other victims of our satellite communications spying system."

"The secret to big sales in business," confides J.R. "Bob" Dobbs,"is not to take to a potential client about Jesus—especially if he is Japanese, Chinese or Russian."

"Or Jewish," Dobbs adds.

Be the first on your block to join the millions who'd rather forget about Jesus and would prefer that everyone else—particularly the residents of Ireland—would also forget about Jesus.

Buy one of our Forget-About-Jesus raffle tickets to help send missionaries to Ireland and maybe you'll win an expense-paid vacation in Dobbstown, where everyone is so busy talking about "Bob" and Wotan and the Xists and Brown and Root and speculating as to whether Philo Drummond is Roger Lovin or Robert Anton Wilson that there just isn't much time to think about Jesus.

(Kerry Thornley may be reached at PO Box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307.)

Don't chicken out.

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Walking across scabby water
Accounts from participants of the
4th Annual
Intergalactic Festival of the Swamps
August 20-27,
held in Madison, WI & beyond

(continued from FF32)

Art Strike

(excerpt from a day of discussion & participation in the international Art Strike)

M. And: The Art Strike is a kind of energy & inertia that you have to create within yourself in order to have that response, it's a double-negative or an absurdity or a contradiction. The very act of creating an Art Strike is a creative act.

Yb: It has an element of destruction in it. Of annihilation. If you have an Art Strike in your mind you can scrutinize every creative activity.

M. And: What is your response to the Art Strike?

Yb: I've seen it & I can't forget it. What about you?

M. And: I guess because I'm so involved with the network of people who are participating in the Art Strike & the Festival of Non-Participation, I felt like I had to have a formal response; which is where the ART SCABS FOR THE ART GLUT comes from. The phrase "Art Strike" is valuable for the effect it would have on mainstream or commercial media because it's an idea which the media isn't familiar with. In terms of my own life I need some sort of hyper-activity, & along with hyper-activity you have to have the affirmative strategies that go along with it. I like the notion of an Art Strike because it's a sensation. It creates an immediate response from anyone & it might go no further than that. But then again, if someone who is an artist replaces painting with cooking food, I don't really think that the actual impulses which make both those things happen is any different. The Art Strike seems to be a denial of the avant-garde... There is such an enigma attached to the people behind the strike. Stewart Home, by creating an Art Strike is making himself an object of art & that's another one of those contradictions.

Yb: Within cognizant populations on a world scale or any scale there's different wavelengths of testing & change & a public statement is an infrequent longwave event vs. people sitting around a table jabbering back & forth which is a shortwave event. Art Strike is concurrent with the times. It's another resonator.

M. And: There are 2 qualities about the Art Strike. The first, which interests me very little, is the quality of denial which is something we all did when we were very young. It was the only kind of reaction we could have, very primitive kind of response, ie "I don't wanna do it" . The other quality, which *I am* intrigued by, which is what I will try to study about the Art Strike is the quality of invisibility, how you take something & make it disappear. It may have the same effects & energies but it doesn't have to exist. You're making the impulse of creativity disappear. If I could be in an existence that doesn't have a constant influx of media, I would be very interested in a kind of invisible culture. I think the Art Strike has to admit that there is a basic human response which is creativity & nothing short of lobotomy can get rid of that. The Art Strike teaches how to have some sort of cognition of what is going on without having to channel it thru making paintings all of your life.

Malok: I don't see the point of it. The Art Strike is the cessation of activity but then I'd have to kill myself, what else can I do. You know what I mean.

Experimental Music Stage at Willy St Fair

Tho this actually takes place after the Festival of the Swamps, we have always considered it to be part & parcel of the Festival. In fact after the suffocation of the Destroy All Music day 3 weeks earlier, it completed what was left unfinished.

Willy St Fair is a yearly demonstration of the magic eclecticism of the neighborhood Miekal & Liz live in. Bikers, kids, street people, students, professors, dykes, yuppies, new agers, hippies, you name it, the Willy St neighborhood's got it, & all its colors intermingle at the fair. In past years out stage was located in a dusty industrial parking lot a block off the fair. Because we were next to dumpsters full of metal & bangables, it made for some good end of the day jams but it also isolated us from the main flow of people. So this year we located right in the middle of the streetfair between the punk stage, the rock stage, & vendors selling crystals & barbecued chicken. Basically, everyone had to walk past out stage at one point during the day.

This year it featured the yearly Children's Jam in which for an hour & a half we let kids (under teen) go wild on drums, electric guitar & keyboards, etc., w/only enough supervision to ensure their own & the instruments' safety. Then cello improvisations with a tape by Madison occultists Russell Thorne; spontaneous composition on Chapman Stick & a short performance piece called "Blinded By Pork" , by nomad Drake Scott; 4 men & a tape deck known as the Tape-Beatles, from Iowa City; Miekal & Liz as Floating Concrete Octopus dueling noisy computer & twisted drums; Chicago's Illusion of Safety with ambient industrial electronics; & other-world patchcord electronics from the Milwaukee Electronic Music Ensemble. [Was & And]

Mail Art Show

Held again at the Folkways Natural Foods Restaurant three doors down from the Avant-Garde Museum of Temporary Art (aka Swamp Hindquarters), the Second Annual F.S. Mail Art Show was (& still is, thru mid-October) a wondrous colorful diverse collection of Recycled Cultural Relics. We received over 150 pieces from 75 different artists from 8 different countries, 22 different states. The special treat of sponsoring a mail art show is when pieces come from people you've never heard of. The submission that most stands out in our heads is one of the first we received: a mailing tube of 7 large hand-colored original drawings by a Kevin Varner of Ogilvie, Minnesota. These drawings are masterful, surreal landscape-schematics of everyday objects interacting in imaginary ways. Another work that stands out is the set of 3 "swampScript" scrolls (which were too long to fit on the restaurant walls) sent with other things by Minoy from Torrance, CA. These he prescribed as scores for improvised noise performance during the Festival. We got an actual dead fish from NY which I promptly rewrapped in plastic to save Ben his restaurant business, a painted ceramic madonna stuffed with xeroxes from Abby & Dan in Bloomington, IL, a heavy series of over 30 collages from his book about the Global Swamp by Jim Koehnline of Skokie, IL, 18 postcards mailed separately by Trudy Mercer of Seattle...I could go on & on but I won't. Write us instead for the documentation. [E. Was]

SwampRadio Cobweb

The SwampRadio Cobweb ran from Sunday, August 20 to Sunday, August 27. It was conceived as a method of invoking responses from artists forced into experimental isolation. Open Airtime for audio art, collage, noise, spoken word, commentary & stream-of-consciousness. The contributions were to refer to the idea of "recycling cultural relics" & be as swampy as possible. The stations involved were WORT (Madison), WCSB (Cleveland), WBAI (NYC), KKUP (San Jose, CA), WZBC (Boston), KRUI (Iowa City), CKUT (Montreal), CKLN (Toronto), WRPI (Troy, NY), WCUW (Worcester, MA), WTUL (New Orleans). From Swamp Central we were able to send transmissions to all but WTUL (because we were exhausted & asleep). Simply by putting the phone receiver up to live sound, tape sound, & or voice, one was instantly broadcasting to some location on the continent. Because we have 2 studios & a phone extension near each we were able to have "stereo [phone" transmissions with up to 15 people going at it at once. & several stations had multiple phone lines so conceivably different callers could "jam" together to form a noise satellite. All the djs seems especially enthusiastic about the idea, which suggests to me that call-in radio art is much needed in the international front. Each dj also recorded their show & excerpts from most shows will appear on the 89 Festival of the Swamps audio compilation edited by Luigi Bob Drake, a swamp veteran from Cleveland.

In the Future Swamps

1. Take the Swamps on the road to other Midwestern cities such as Milwaukee, Chicago, Iowa City, Minneapolis/St. Paul.

2. After being subjected to the arbitrary tastes & complaints of locals, I wish for an environment where we can be in control of our destiny, There is talk of finding a piece of land to do future swampfests on, maybe even a real swamp.

3. The parade itself was one of the most exhilarating experiences I have encountered. But the mile & a half parade route was over much too soon. What about a parade thru town that would be a

trek of hours, a moving & self-contained performance that would eventually lead back to the beginning.

4. Both the radio cobweb & the mail art show epitomize the direction a localized festival can take in order to broaden its base of participants. The freedom of broadcasting audio & visual information for all to hear & see is a powerful & decentralized action. Anyone Anywhere can. **[M. And]**

Swamp Video

Because Liz was persistent enough to get a city art grant which included video documentation, there will be a Festival of the Swamps video. It will come in 2 forms. A capsulized 30 minute edit of all available footage (some 20 hours total) meant for broadcast use, particularly for situations with extreme time constraints. Then there will be a more inclusive & "leisurely" 2 hour video meant for distribution to interested participants & public access cable. With any luck both will be released in early 1990. Loan copies will be made available for broadcast use.

Festival of the Swamps East (Brooklyn & Manhattan)

The Festival of the Swamps was once again upon us & once again the dates conflicted with other activities planned here in Brooklyn & NYC. Circle Arts & the Neoist News Agency, after reading the latest information on this year's festival noticed the simultaneous events & there we found our solution to not being able to visit Madison: hosting the Festival of the Swamps East. Participating in the festivities outlined on the announcement listed a radio cobweb call-in, which I did with Peter Lamborn Wilson on his WBAI show, talking to him as we regularly do with other artists & writers. Then there was Dave Mandl on WFMU, who I also see from time to time, but called while he was on the aid & asked briefly if he heard of the upcoming shows. He said I could call Madison & have them call in. On the air from Madison he sat back & the whole show changed, from James Brown to noise on the telephone from Wisconsin live & uninterrupted. It sounded great & the listeners had no ideas what was happening until about 5 minutes later with some conversation about the upcoming events.

Terry & John Francois had handed over their Brooklyn Space The Lizard's Tail to us once again to transform for the event. & so we began with a truckload of all sized & shapes of tv's, neoist art, anti-art & propaganda, mail art projects, spanish moss hanging from all the door frames, & a curtain made from 2-inch recording tape. We stapled a runner on the barroom floor made from lp's, & after the perfromance are the barroom & the back yard were littered with scrap metal & fabric banners proclaiming "Art is shit" "Make clothes entirely out of bread" , etc.

The early arrivals were entertained by cassettes from Gen Ken, Dave Presott, Monty Cantsin, compilations from Generator Record Store, Muslim Gauze, Fast Forward cd's, video images & sound from Cathode Ray TV, Scream & Scrap Metal, Demo Moe, Electric Art, & the 6-O'Clock Report or Wat. The opening performer was scheduled for the date long before our takeover & was now just a part of the Festival of the Swamps. Singing & strumming on an acoustic guitar in fine folk tradition, Brenda Kahn with a twist & a turn on the usual melodies & social commentary fit right in with her songs about muggings & relationships gone sour. Then a segue with "Sixteen Reasons Why I Don't Like Music" , Scream & Scrap Metal concert on the video screen primed the audience for Bwana Frolic (Al Margolis, Dan & Detta Andreana) playing circular sawblades, conga drum, violin & electronic manipulation int he dim red & blue stage lights while slides of industrial security & fire systems, employee motivation & found images flashed randomly. Video monitors showed pseudo-psychedelic splashes & swirls as the hypnotic sounds of Bwana Frolic took us all for a brief journey. Visiting dj Don Blanchard from California station KFJC & all hangers-on joined in the finale of smashing & completely trashing a display of lp's & the barroom floor was littered with shards of vinyl as everyone cheered.

Continuing the festival, Kathy Jenkins at the Gateway Theater in Manhattan helped unload an even bigger truckload of scrap & stuff to transform her space. A living room was set up at the entry area where artist's interview by "Peter's Endless World Art Video Project" (Peter Kusterman) provided us with six hours of nonstop tv. The gallery which leads to the theater was once again littered with neoist Monty Cantsin propaganda & news reports, Salvador Dali Memorial Surreal Mail Postcard Project exhibition, & essays on mail art. The theater entrance was draped with the recording tape curtain && spanish moss on video monitors & hanging from trees in the back yard. Sounds everywhere hanging in bags on auto reverse tape players, on speakers in the performance space, video monitors, tv's & a small portable tape player on a small pedestal in the garden.

The first activity after feeding the hungry with a barbecue & recipes from Circle Arts correspondents' cook book "Another Half-baked Idea" was 3D slides from Paradise Blvd, Treasure Island, St Petersburg, Florida by Chuck Majewski which had everyone in the dark sharing special glasses since there weren't enough to go around. And you have people like Miguel handing his sunglasses instead of the 3D glasses to others, as I mixed four sound sources of electronic, environmental & taped radio cobweb announcements from WBAI & WFMU, & Chuck treated everyone to the unusual dogs, gators & spitting water jumping right off the screen.

The Gen Ken cassette concert filled the space with sounds on cassette, a video with Conrad Schnitzler in Berlin, & live violin as Ken Montgomery manipulated slide images with a wand to a crowd quiet & attentive sitting on folding chairs facing all different directions looking like they should be marching, about to play musical chairs. Then after a short video interlude of sounds & sights from Byron Black & his travels in the East there on the screen was the king Elvis dancing & paddling along with scenes of swamps down south as Bwana Frolic & friends sprung into action (with added drummer Brian Charles & didjerdou player Kevin Sparks) playing two pieces that once again had everyone transported deep within themselves. & once again before the throngs departed, another crate of lp's left outside the apartment of Lyle Schlesinger contributed t the grand finale of reporters, photographers, dj's (Fabio, Dave Mandl, & P.L. Wilson) & a roomful of strangers, all shattering records like the White Album, Sounds of Silence, Abba, & other tos & 70s artifacts, to become part of this anti-art event. **[Matty Jankowski]**

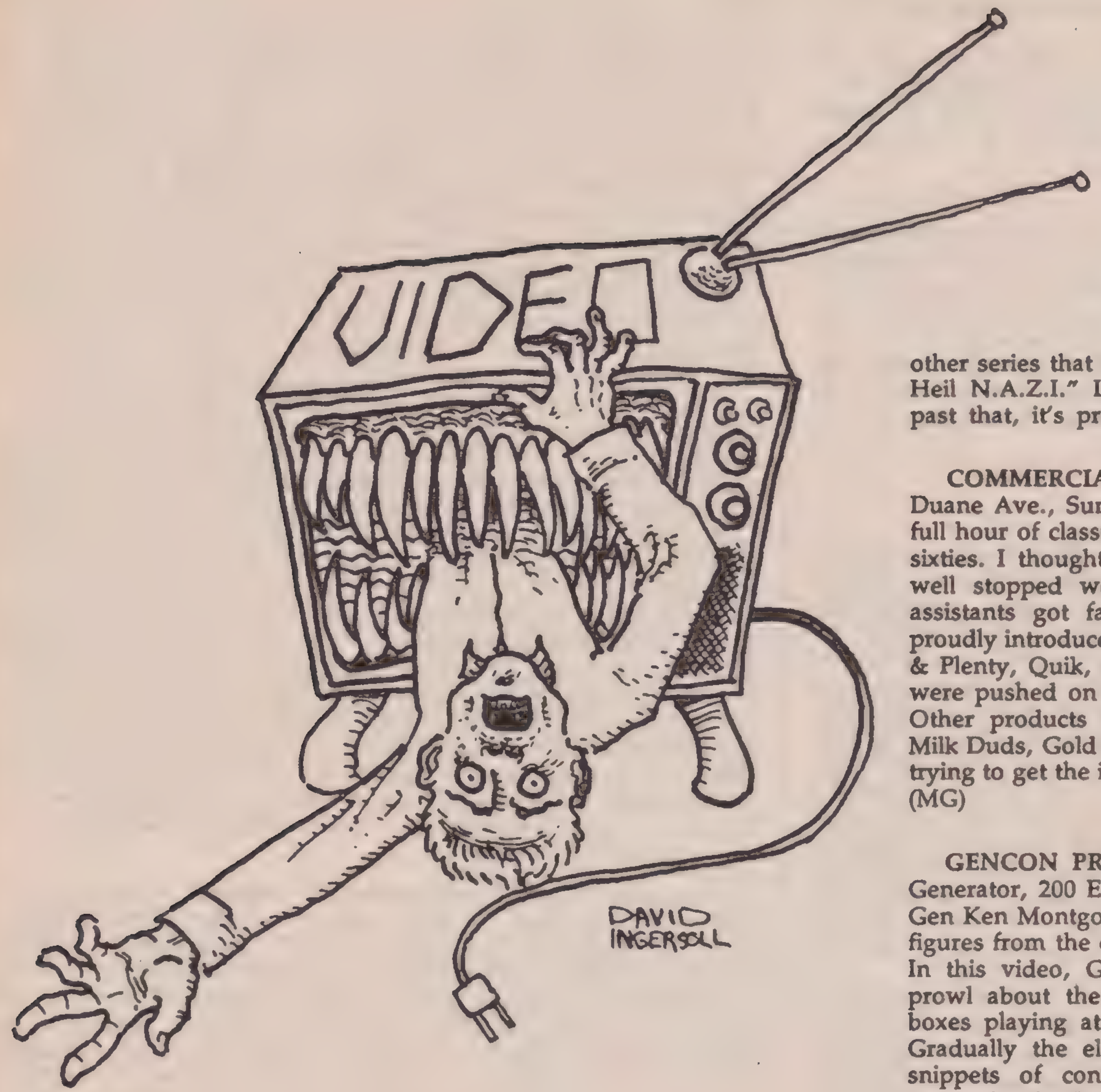
Swampfest South

The AFM coagulation coincidentally caused a celebration of the Collective Individual, a very swampy notion (lotion?) indeed. Synchronistically starting sunrise Sunday, metaeuphoric mishiness meandered Madisonward, my Miami mappoints melting, as a flood of frontallobed festivity from far flung factories of freeform frolic slid slowly south. The rest is itstory. (Translation: Socially induced isolation turns people into cactus, the planet into desert. Swampfest reverses above process, providing separate entities to lubrication necessary to mingle. Openness to interpentratory existence occupies every moment. We prepare for sacred accidents. The Swamp is energized and the wriggling begins. I start by programming my mental process to use the Festival as a focal point. I link directly via Cobweb Radio thanks to Dave Prescott in Boston. The merging of my self and the Swampself is complete: just as my spewing peaks, the tape segues into the next song. (Later Miekal told me Dave said my spiel "affected" him, the highest compliment of a Swampling.) The next night in Troy was absolutely grand! Four simultaneous open phone lines, and I mean *open*! When I first jelled into this Cobweb, some swampster was chanting "Transportation?" which keyed into my theme: were they here? Or was I there? In the Swamp, there is no difference. My last Cobweb ride was in Cleveland where my manic ranting caused Chas Smith to exclaim "Calm down, man! Pull yourself together!" But you seem I was parcelling myself out into Swampstrands to be swimmingly woven around the sphere. The final Festifling Swampwise was on the Second Sunday as I did some ritual lysergicise to close the Miami ceremonies. The video rolled, the torch was passed, and it rained on the stroke of midnight, extinguishing the candles. **[Rian Fike]**

For more information on the SwampFest, past or future, contact:

Xexoxial Endarchy
Miekal And, Liz Was
1341 Williamson
Madison, WI 53703
608-258-1305

DAVID INGERSOLL



Videos are reviewed by Belka Stamas (BS) or the Æditor (MG). Videos for review may be sent to either one of us; Belka may be contacted at 1218 S. 11th, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Please write before sending any Beta format videotapes. Send information for NTSC Cyberbeat directly to Belka.

★★★★★

THE ART LEPERS, "Mental Illness" (Stungus Inc., PO Box 6963, San Mateo, CA 94403): A homemade two-song rock video. The Art Lepers are primarily into noise, rock with heavy industrial and feedback components. The first song, "Plague of Steel", is presented as part of a multi-media show, with slides and video as well as guitar, samples, and industrial percussion. The second, "Grid Dirg[e]", is more conventionally rocking, but devolves into something strange with the introduction of a paean to revenge and a walkon from a gal carrying some memento mori. Better camera work than usual for this sort of production, though still nothing like MTV slick. (MG)

★★★★★

CHAINED FOR LIFE ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #13726): The Video-SIG catalog lists this one as a "Camp classic"; personally, I think that's a bit too kind. Made in 1951, it stars Siamese twins Daisy and Violet Hilton in a schmaltzy story of love and murder, ending with the classic "What would *you* do?" schtick. Along the way we get bad acting, low-budget sets (theater manager announcing a crowd of 2500 with no more than 300 in the room, and so on), and an awful lot of stock characters, from the jackass agent to the weary but wise blind minister. The highlight of the film was the vaudeville juggling act used to pad out one sequence. Probably the only film starring Siamese twins, but that's certainly not enough to salvage it. (MG)

★★★★★

CHANNEL K ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #12701): A prody of mordern low-budget cable TV, done with pretty heavy-handed humor. It opens with Chad Randolph and his tips on picking up girls—parody well past the point of outright sexism., The funniest segment is probably the one with Handy Dan, attempting to build a doghouse in his home workshop; what every PBS viewer has dreamed of. There are commercials as well, for various other series that they don't show at length including "Gomer Heil N.A.Z.I." Lots of poor taste here, but once you get past that, it's pretty funny. (MG)

★★★★★

COMMERCIAL REEL ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #14177): Almost a full hour of classic commercials from the late fifties and early sixties. I thought this would be a dud, but in fact it pretty well stopped work at the last FF mailing party, as my assistants got fascinated by the nostalgia. See the Edsel proudly introduced, remember the classic campaigns for Good & Plenty, Quik, and Trix, get appalled at the way war toys were pushed on the kids (well, some things never change). Other products include Philco appliances, the '57 Chevy, Milk Duds, Gold Metal Flour, and Beechnut gum (desperately trying to get the idea of color across in a monocolor medium). (MG)

★★★★★

GENCON PRODUCTIONS, "On Their Way" ($25 from Generator, 200 E. 3rd St., New York, NY 10009): Gencon is Gen Ken Montgomery and Conrad Schnitzler, two important figures from the experimental electronic music and art world. In this video, Gen goes to visit Con in Berlin, and they prowl about the city giving cassette concerts—four boomboxes playing at once, while they pose or prance around. Gradually the electronic soundtrack here gets replaced by snippets of conversation, and there are some shots of processing in Conrad's studio as well. The total effect is sort of ambient, a second-order look at the act of music creation. Comes with a booklet of computer-altered images from the film. (MG)

★★★★★

GREEN THUMB, DEAD BOY (Aaron Trudgeon, 12145 Morang #8, Detroit, MI 48224): Both Green Thumb and Dead Boy are no-budget productions that are sometimes difficult to watch because of the editing, but they show much promise for Aaron and the rest of his crew. Dialog and pace in these two pieces can and do flow, but because of editing in what appears to be in-camera, it can be a burden tot he senses to keep up with the visuals. The storylines are of the punk/slasher genre and with just a slight upgrade in technical facilities, Aaron and his team could be producing some excellent shorts, and perhaps longer narratives in the near future. For what equipment they have to work with, they do a great job. (BS)

★★★★★

HAMBURGERS COMMA SHOES AND OTHER STUFF ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #14218): This is thirteen minutes of stop action animation. It starts off with a bunch of shoes dancing around on their own, and later moves to the refrigerator where the hamburger does its stuff. A substantial chunk of the film is shot in reverse color video, lending an eerie air to the proceedings, especially when one of the eggs breaks to reveal cyan yolk inside. An amusing little trifle; it kept my attention late at night when my brain was too mushy to review much else. (MG)

★★★★★

RUTH HOWARD (Sumfun productions, 211 Caledonia St., Santa Cruz, CA 95062): This seven minute clip features Ruth Howard's poems on the goddess theme dubbed over shots of her painting and other artwork of a similar nature. This piece is tactfully right to the point and doesn;t burden the viewer with a lot of self-serving visuals to accompany her use of the language. I really liked it not only for the overall message, but how she presents her visions, two different visions (poetry and painting) on video tape while still maintaining a freshness that's often lost when crossing to a new medium—a medium that wasn't intended to project her feelings in the initial creative process. (BS)

★★★★★

WHERE'S UTOPIA? ($25 from Aquarian Research Foundation, 5620 Morton St., Philadelphia, PA 19144): This is a travelogue style investigation of cooperation in the United States, tracking Dr. Peter Gladkov from the Soviet Union as he visits a bunch of cooperative experiments. These include food co-ops as well as intentional communities, and secular as well as religious experiments. There's a community which has succeeded in fighting gang violence, and another run by members of a Sufi order. Every one is unique, but the overall message comes through loud and clear: that by working together we can live more fulfilling lives. A very empowering film, and one that should be seen by anyone who's fed up with single-family life in the suburbs. (MG)

★★★★★

XEROX VENTURA PUBLISHER ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086; order #13203): A relatively brief (one hour—that's brief for a program with a 500-page reference manual) guide to the basics of Ventura Publisher. On the plus side, it taught me a few tricks that I hadn't remembered from the manuals—and it's vastly cheaper than training videos advertised in computer manuals. On the down side, it's several years old (so that some things have changed since it was made), shot directly from the computer screen (leading to some annoying flicker), and rather slow moving. The final product of this training session is not very well designed from the aesthetic point of view, though it does show off a reasonable number of the program's capabilities. If you're not the sort of person who takes to computer manuals, this might serve as a good introduction to the program. Otherwise, I'd have to say, pass it up. (MG)

VIDEO NOTES

•**Bullfrog Films** (Oley, PA 19547) offers a wide variety of educational films for purchase or rental (including public performance rights). Topic areas include Women's Studies, Environmentalism, Dance, Animal Studies, and Waste Management. Their catalog is full of pictures and descriptions; say about $2 for a copy.

•**St. Priapus Church** (583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102) sells a variety of mostly-gay sexual films at $25 for any two titles. Send an SASE & Age Statement for their list of offerings.

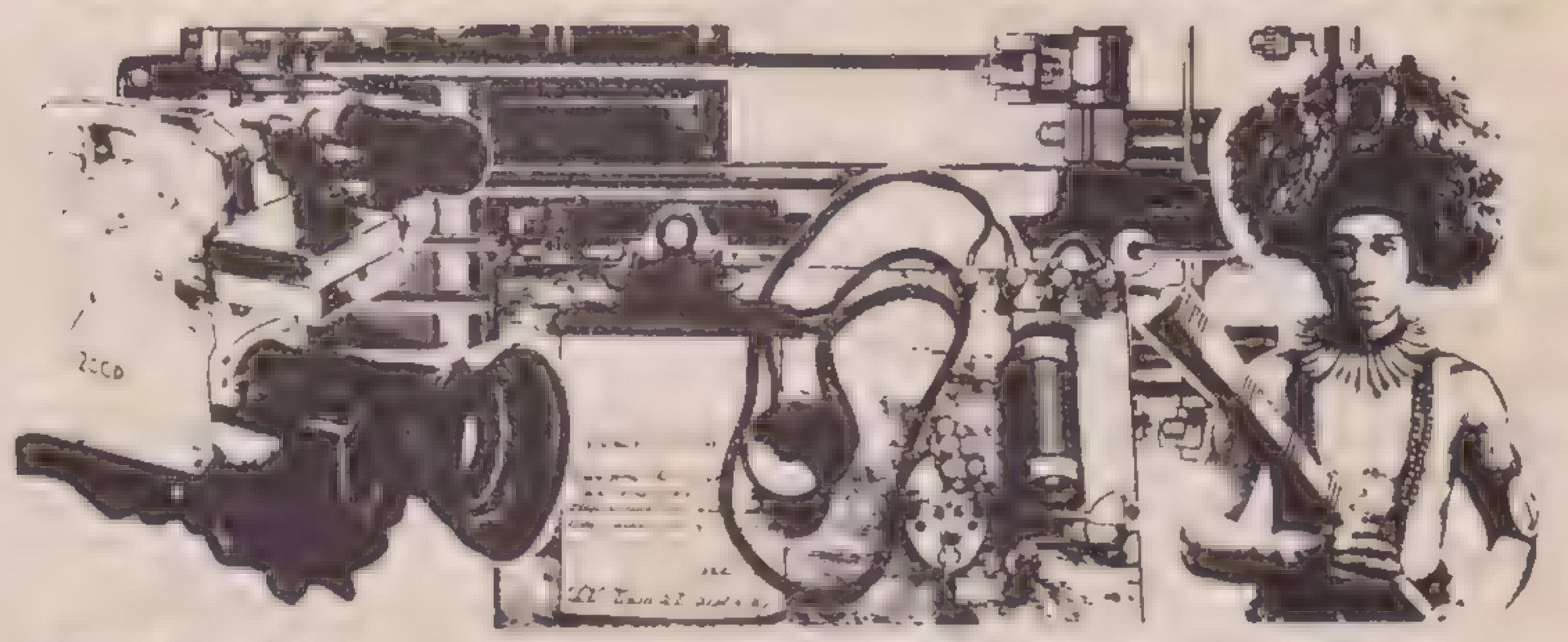
NTSC CYBERBEAT

by Belka Stamas

Before attending a meeting about THE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICE, INC., formerly the independent production service, I reviewed a packet of information my local film office sent concerning the ITVS and something really caught my attention, It was on a sheet listing a brief history of the relationship between independent producers and public television: "In 1972, President Richard Nixon vetoes public broadcasting's appropriation in reaction to 'controversial' programming. As a result, the system is restructured so that funds are distributed directly to the stations. National programming, especially public affairs, is virtually eliminated. Independents are largely excluded from the system."

Lawrence Sapadin, chairperson of the ITVS and publisher of **THE INDEPENDENT** [FF30 zine reviews] hosted the meeting, I sat at a large table with about thirty people, half of them independent producers, the other half from production companies or the local PBS station; you could distinguish the independents by the way they nervously drummed their pencils while Mr. Sapadin presented current problems the board is facing in lawyerese. The words I remember he spoke are the ones he repeated frequently, like he had a built in sampler. CONSTITUENCY and BOARD were sequenced for about an hour and a half. There was also much name dropping of political people, and the pencils kept drumming.

The cadence increased when "cooperation with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting" was mentioned. Finally, the guy sitting next to me raised his hand and asked: "This is a hypothetical question. I'm filming in New Mexico and there's an earthquake, my cameraman breaks his leg. Can you help me out?" Mr. Sapadin's response had something to do with committees and the decision making process



VIDEO REVOLUTION

Embark upon the revolution of the 90's with expansion of your special interest video library. Explore forgotten film classics, historic documentaries, instructional training programs, controversial politics or unseen visual wonderlands using Video-SIG as your navigator. Choose from over one thousand different titles and expand your videotape horizon. Order one tape and receive a copy of our new magazine THE VIDEO COLLECTOR, highlighting new releases from Video-SIG and other alternative videotapes. Order three tapes and receive in addition to the magazine, a copy of THE VIDEO SIG LIBRARY, listing the entire catalog of over one thousand tapes.

Here are some examples of tapes you can order from Video-SIG:

☐ **12701 Channel K**
The producers of Channel K have assembled an outrageous half-hour spoof of television, featuring spots for "Gomer Heil N.A.Z.!" as well as "Bachelor Pad," where Chad Randolph, the king of sleaze, shows single men how to score chicks and save bread at the same time, and "Handy Dan," who turns his workshop into a chamber of horrors as he attempts to build a dog house. 30 minutes.

☐ **13688 San Francisco Talent Vision: Volume 10**
Taped at various San Francisco nightclubs, SFTV showcases some of the new talent from the SF Bay Area. Choosing from over 300 audition tapes, the producers gathered some of their favorite performers for this prime-time cable program which has been in existence since 1983. In this episode, you'll witness the talents of SHOCK EXCHANGE, TOP CAT and THE STICKBAND. 28 minutes

☐ **12717 Percy Mayfield: Poet Laureate of the Blues**
This documentary of singer/songwriter Percy Mayfield includes concert footage as well as interviews. In this program, you'll develop a greater understanding of this man and his music, including the song "Hit the Road, Jack," which he wrote while working exclusively for Ray Charles. This show won a W.C. Handy Award from the the Blues Foundation. 27 minutes.

☐ **14302 The Brain That Wouldn't Die**
A young surgeon has discovered he can keep alive the head of his fiancee, who was tragically decapitated. With the brain of his lover intact, he goes on a search to find "the perfect body" for her. Bizarre entertainment starring Herb (Jason) Evers and Virginia Leith. B&W (1963) 83 minutes

☐ **14218 Hamburgers, Comma, Shoes and Other Stuff**
This exotic little video involves stop-action animation of common household items. Utilizing an adventurous imagination, a camcorder and an original soundtrack, this gem was the winner of the Experimental Category in the Video-SIG Camcorder Contest. This highly recommended tape can be used as a video babysiter again and again. 13 minutes

☐ **13203 Xerox Ventura Publisher**
Enter the world of desktop publishing with this instructional videotape. Throw away that rubber cement and learn how you can use a personal computer to typeset your text, combine graphics with words and compose the style of your text to look like any other slick magazine. 57 minutes

VIDEO PRODUCERS: Do you have any productions that you would like to share with the general public? Let Video-SIG expose your video to a larger audience. We offer a non-exclusive agreement that allows you pursue other markets and receive a 10% royalty on every tape sold. Our emphasis on mailorder distribution allows targeting to specialized markets. For more information, please contact Video-SIG Submissions, Department 963.

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and nothing whatsoever to do with the man's question. Being bored with boards, I soon left the meeting feeling very good about being self-funded.

NEW NTSC CYBERBEAT CONTACTS:

TRAUMA TV (PO Box 42405, San Francisco, CA 94142-2405): Trauma TV has a potential viewing audience of over 300,000 and networks on Channel 25 in the Bay Area at 5PM on Thursdays. Producer Victor Ariel designs the program for film/video artists looking for exposure and accepts 3/4", 1/2" or 8mm videotapes. The above is his new address.

ACADIANS OPEN CHANNEL (c/o Christopher Cart, False Eye Video, Route 3 Box 210A, Crowley, LA 70526): Another access program that's experiencing problems with censorship from the parent company, especially with that word that begins with F and ends with UCK, and Christopher assures me he's not referring to "firetruck". However, he's still broadcasting and looking for shorts along with hoping to distribute some of his work to other programs.

REAL GEORGE'S BACKROOM TV (PO Box 724, C.P., NY 12065; (518)-489-0658): George Guarino keeps pushing his program forward by linking with many of the small networks in most of the major markets in the country. If you're screened on Backroom TV, you're probably getting as much national exposure as you're going to get short of major network or cable distribution. Program 93 (yes, program number ninety-three) featured videos by Sonic Youth, Bauhaus, Loop, Fetchin Bones and Big Barn Burning.

A SHORT COURSE IN CABLE (United Church of Christ, Office of Communications, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016): This 32-page booklet by Jenifer Stearns is free except for the 25¢ stamp you'll have to put on the envelope when mailing your request. Basically, this is the Cliff Notes of cable with chapters including a brief history of cable, how cable works, the cable franchise and access programming.

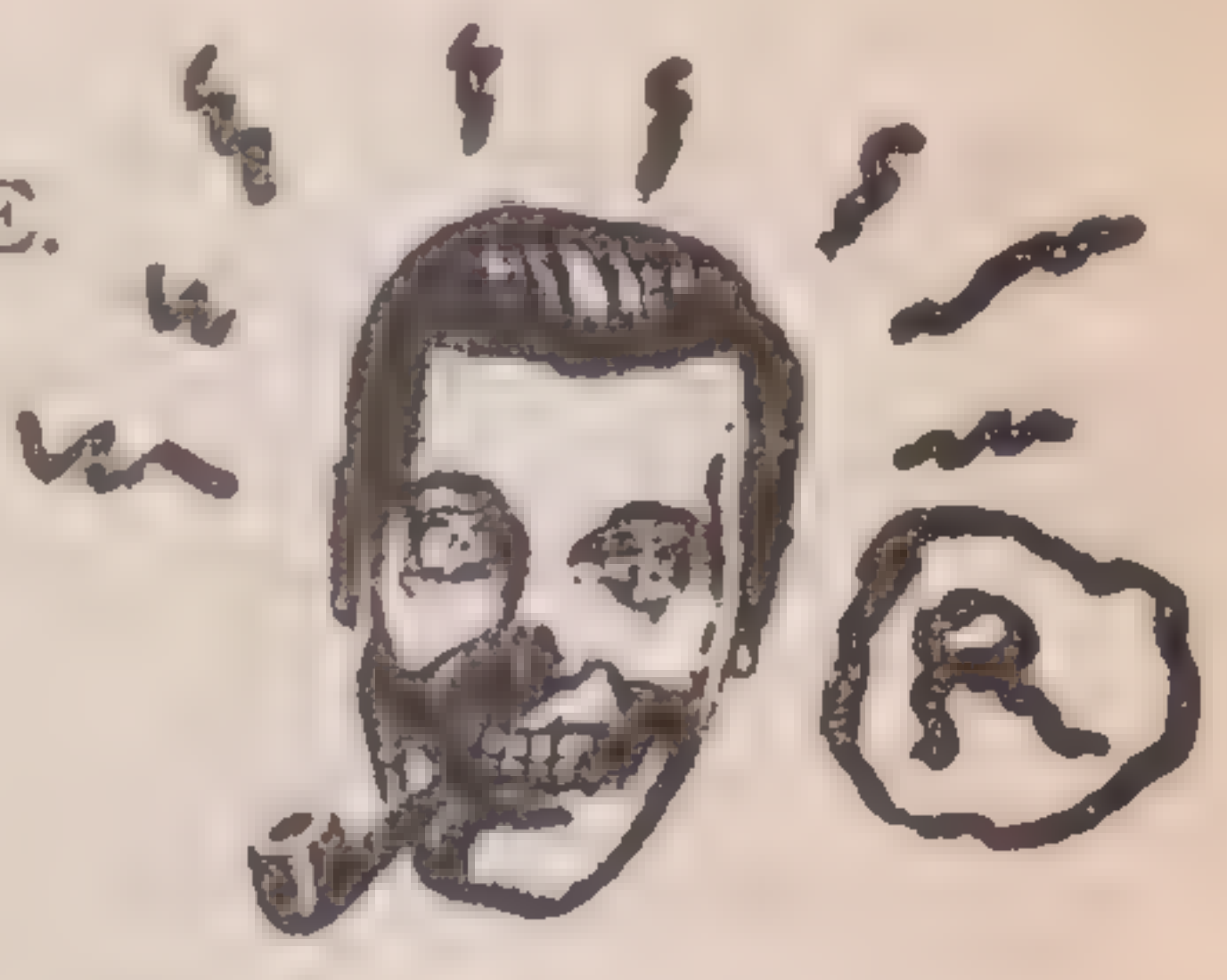
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF LOCAL CABLE PROGRAMMERS BULLETIN BOARD ((217)-359-9118): The NFLCP operates this electronic bulletin board system as a means to provide timely communications between NFLCP members and others interested in local television programming. The system provides two major functions: an electronic mail are where users may exchange public and private messages, and an information section, which includes instructions on the use of the BBS itself, articles and other longer-form information files of interest to community programmers. When you first contact the system, enter NEW at the first prompt, when the system requests your user identification, and press your RETURN key. This will take you in to the new-user signup procedure which allows you to establish your own account on the system.

GEORGE MARANVILLE (208 Zandale Dr., Lexington, KY 40503): George is a great source for getting a short or series aired. In addition, if anybody is having difficulty with censorship, he's a good contact with information about some of the problems he's faced with his host company and the solutions he's implemented to continue broadcasting in a fairly right-wing environment. A refreshing person to deal with.

VIDEO-SIG (Anne Gelhaus, Acquisitions Coordinator, 1030 E. Duane Ave. #C, Sunnyvale, CA 94086; (408)-730-9291): Video-SIG distributes tapes ranging from experimental to classic theatrical releases. They're looking for any subject matter except pornography or violence, and this is best illustrated by the categories in their catalog: Children's Stories, Cartoons, Documentary, Educational/Instructional, Entertainment, Health and Fitness, New Age, Travel, Sports, Classic TV, and Personal Growth. If you're looking for a distributor, this is a good outfit to contact and if accepted you'll receive a bounty of marketing services with their non-exclusive distribution agreement.

ART MAGGOT HYSTERIA (c/o Jonathan X, PO Box 7687, San Diego, CA 92107; (619)-223-1860): This program feels changes are possible with an aggressive art attack and social/political/musical involvement. Airs in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Washington, DC, and is expanding to San Francisco and Phoenix, but is having difficulty finding tapes. Producer Jonathan X is already very involved in networking and will consider screening a series if you've got on. Prefers tapes in 3/4", but accepts VHS and Beta too.

"BOB" HAS RISEN FROM THE GRAVE. YOU MAY NOW RESUME CONSUMING HIS CORPSE.



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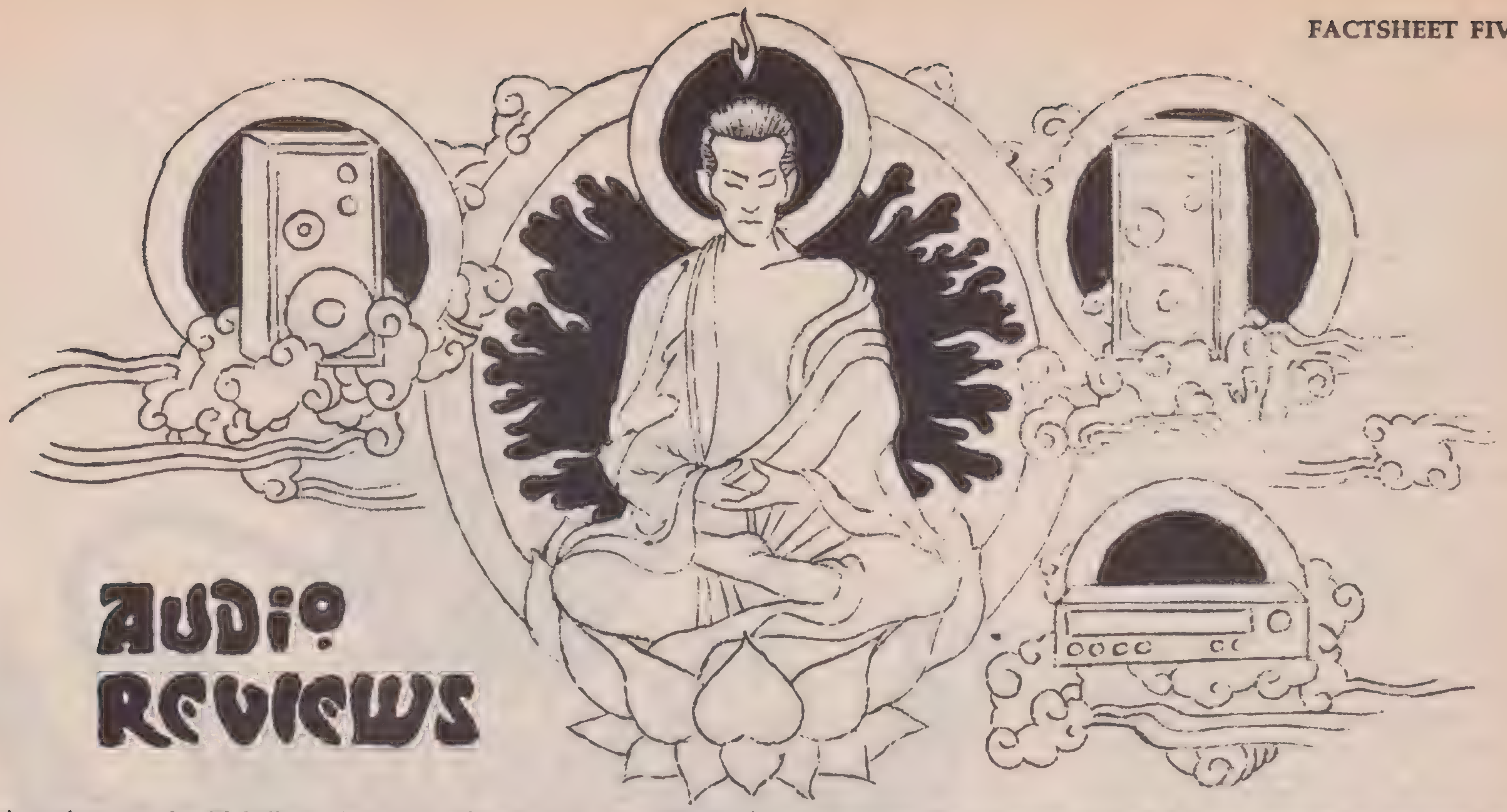

Audio Reviews

Music reviews are by PJ Bellomo (pj), Ken Johnson (KJ), Cris Elligott Rowles (CER), Carol Schutzbank (CS), Dina Williams (DW), and the Aeditor (MG). All music received by the tenth of November has been reviewed, except for a handful of things that Adam Gray didn't get back to me and anything that got lost in the shuffle.

★★★★★

As this issue went to press, we received six more tapes from The Mystery Tramps. As none of my reviewers can stand this stuff, and I've about had it with Jeff Jervie's snotty letters, these are available for review by anyone who wants to listen to them. Drop me a line if you're interested.

★★★★★

23RD GENERATOR, "Hypnosis Volume 1" (Bob Freed, 1637 Clearbrook Rd., Lansdale, PA 19446): The A side of this release harkens back to earlier days of synthetic music, being based mostly on simple oscillators and tone generators, weaving slowly back and forth from sound to sound. The B side is a bit bouncier and more modern sounding, but still basically an unfolding more than anything else. Moody music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

7 SECONDS, "SoulForce Revolution" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): 7 Seconds started out with a hardcore sound, which has grown much more accessible over the years. Now their message of hope for a better world comes fueled by punk energy with an overlay of polish and melody—I like it. An inspirational album, and one which deserves a lot of play. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ALIEN SEX FIEND, "Too Much Acid?" (Xena, 21 Spy Pond Pkwy., Arlington, MA 02174): A double live LP that ambitiously attempts to capture the appeal of Alien Sex Fiend on vinyl. Since part of their intensity is in their appearance, it's hard to tell for sure, but they certainly give it a run for the money, Doom and gloom crooning, passionate outbursts of angst, gutwrenching primal urban ambience...The band is a hybrid of pre-industrial raw beat-rock and post-industrial rhythm and attitude doused with a splash of the artsy/glam. (2LP/CS)

★★★★★

HEIDI ALLEN self-titled ($2.50, plus $1 for lyrics or $2 for photo sheet, from PO Box 47772, St. Petersburg, FL 33473): Allen is a strong female vocalist exhibiting burgeoning skills in pop, rhythm and ballad music. At times she comes close in her intent to mine territory previously charted by the likes of Aretha Franklin, but she's not served well by the material, which is adequate and enjoyable, but far overshadowed by the potential of her voice. The end piece, an all instrumental piece featuring bells, was nice but somewhat insipid; the strength of this tape is 100% in Allen's vocals. (T/CS)

★★★★★

AMERICAN STANDARD, "Wonderland" (Power House Records, PO Box 9028, Fountain Valley, CA 92728-9028): THe band's PR says they've evolved from punk thrash to melodic power, and while I think "melodic" is a bit too strong you can definitely hear an attempt at tunefulness in the music here. They do a lot of asking "Why?" in their lyrics, and if the world doesn't provide answers, at least it gives them a stage to kick out a few jams from. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ANAL SADIST, "Austere" (Frank Booth Cassettes, PO Box 4585, Santa Clara, CA 95054-4585): As the group's name and the picture of the abortion death on the cover might tell you, this is an aggressive sound. In fact, it's so aggressive that I hesitate to call it music despite its rhythmic structure. One track consists solely of bursts of static at various intervals. Another is tape loops of someone screaming and shrieking; I half expected my neighbors to call the cops. For the hardy listener only. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ANGEL OF THE ODD, "Hiding From Fears" ($7 from Aztlan Records, PO Box 5672, Buena Park, CA 90622-5672): Eerie melodic trance-ridden music with traces of psychedelia around the edges. AOTO is anchored by vocalist and performance artist Cecelia + and a couple of high-strung seeming musical partners; there seems to be a sense of constraint here, as if they're holding back just a little to avoid breaking down into complete angst. On the edge between dreams and nightmares. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ANHREFN/LAST ROUGH CAUSE, "Soft Lights & Loud Guitars (Part Two)" (Released Emotions Records, 17 Winchester St., Acton, London W3 8PA, UK): A split LP from a pair of indie bands from the UK. Anhrefn are perhaps the more interesting, inasmuch as their lyrics are entirely in Welsh, a language which adapts to the rhythms of rock quite well. Last Rough Cause have a more anthemic, soaring quality, putting together relatively complex harmonies into slick bites that are packed with emotion, all guitars and vocals. A good combination. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE ARIELLE PROJECT, "Songs Only Her Uncle Could Love" ($2 from K.D. Schmitz, RD 4 Box 217, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569): Obviously homemade music featuring a young kid and her uncle on some duets, plus various other funky synthetic rock numbers. There are oases of charm here, some tedium and a good deal of reasonably mainstream musical noodlings. An oddity, but not much more. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ALAN ARKIN, "The Lemming Condition" ($10.95 from Audio Literature, Inc., 325 Corey Way #112, S. San Francisco, CA 94080-6706): A delightful story written and read by Alan. It concerns Bubber, a young lemming who finds himself a bit confused when his people prepare to rush westward, over the cliffs, into the sea. He ends up going through a massive spiritual crisis thanks to this questioning, but emerges stronger for it, despite some moments of terror. There's a rather obvious parable here, but it's surrounded by good storytelling and wisdom, and I enjoyed it a lot. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JAMES ASHER, "The Great Wheel" (Music West Records, 2200 Larkspur Landing Cir. #100, Larkspur, CA 94939): Gentle instrumentals that draw upon rock, jazz, New Age and world beat influences. Asher plays most of the instruments himself, with the keyboards carrying the bulk of the duties. Though without lyrics, his compositions seldom drag, and even the extended title tune (nearly half an hour on) fascinates rather than bores, with its exploration of life and rhythm. (T/MG)

★★★★★

AZRAEL, demo tape (318 E. Ackard, San Antonio, TX 78221): Fairly hot metal from a group out of Texas. The music is the best part here, with the guitar solos being executed well enough to make it worth turning up the tape to wall-blasting levels. Joe Hudson's vocals need some polish—there's a few disconcerting cracks here—but overall, the sound is pretty good. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BABYLON EXORCISM, "Free and Accepted" (Arglebargle Society, PO Box 30116, St. Louis, MO 63119): Dreamy watery synthetic music with far too much reverb and echo in it. At one point my wife wanted to know what they were doing to those poor whales, but I don't think there was actual animal abuse involved. People abuse on the listening end is another story. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BACKYARD MECHANICS FOR LANGUAGE, "2 Live For Words" ($3 from Burning Press, PO Box 18817, Cleveland Hts., OH 44118): There seems to be more mechanics than language on this recording of a pair of live shows. The A side has its moments, as when Kristen Ban Tepper "punishes" a metronome by turning its speed down and reading poetry at it, or Luigi-Bob Drake (the other half of BMFL) mentions that he's been working his way through college for 14 years selling poetry books. THe B side abandons vocals all together, going instead for something like Middle Eastern industrial music, all wild beats and clatters. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE BAH GAH'S, "Is There a Doctor In The Fish?" (539 4th St. #4L, Brooklyn, NY 11215): A four-song demo tape of somewhat skittery but deep-down solid rock. This three piece has a rather heavy sound, though without much trace of metal influence, and lyrics that make for head scratching. "It's Not Our Fault" is the best track here, an anthem for those who don't care to be blamed for the state of the world (or much of anything else). (T/MG)

★★★★★

A BAND CALLED BUD, "Dad" (Doink Records, 1742 Lawrence #8, Memphis, TN 38112):Pop music that sounds better than its basement three-track origins would lead you to believe. The group puts out some rockers ("Hey Jack" is almost Springsteenish) and some more mellow pieces, with the second side quietly ending in a contemplative mood. If anything, they need to nail down their musical identity a bit more, but for now, just enjoy the changes. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BAND OF OUTSIDERS, "Armistice Day" (Nocturnal Records, PO Box 19550, Detroit, MI 48219): A no-frills live album from a reunion concert at CBGBs. These guys play straightforward rock, with an intensity and feeling that, with a bit of polish, might have been exceptional. But this album is sort of flat, with the feel of a band going through the motions, and never quite catches fire. More of a requiem than a memorial. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BATTERED GOD, "Stall" (Zadfruc Tapes, PO Box 3592, Oak Park, IL 60302): Direct and hard hitting, their fuzz sound and rhythm remind me of the revolting cocks in their earlier years, but in a much more serious way. A high level of tension dominates this tape but at the same time keeps the listener at bay. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

BATZ WITHOUT FLESH, "A Million Bricks" ($8 from NTS Productions, 742 Paper Mill Rd., Newark, DE 19711): Sort of light industrial music, with the heavy emphasis on rhythm and screaming vocals but a bit less ferocity than the most unrestrained of the genre. They mix in a good many samples and keep the music going in a slow steamroller effect, as unstoppable as it is occasionally awesome. Enjoyable and different. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TEJA BELL, "The New SPirit of Christmas" (Music West Records, 2200 Larkspur Landing Cir. #100, Larkspur, CA 94939): Gentle Christmas instrumentals, with Bell providing both the guitar and synth work. THe music is pleasant, a mix of traditional and medieval tunes plus a couple of originals, veering into the bombastic now and then but mostly content to stay pretty. THe j-card copy is ridiculously New Age, right down to the thanks to Jach Pursel and Lazaris, but that can be ignored. Certainly no worse than most of the Christmas music sold by television mail order. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BIG CITY ORCHESTRA, "Headache Remedy" (Ecto Tapes, 5912 NW 62nd Terr., Oklahoma City, OK 73122): Tape appropriations, effects and occasional monologues comprise this tape recorded live at the studios of KZSC. Like many "live" performances from the underground, this one is not exceptionally well thought or organized. At over an hour, it suffers from too little material on too much tape. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

BISHOP STEEL, "Die To Live It!" (PO Box 414839, Kansas City, MO 64141): The sound of the seventies rock dinosaurs lives on; the final cut here, "Shattered Silence", is an early Van Halen dead-ringer. But despite their derivative sound these guys do a decent job, moving around the genre to deliver some decent lyrics and shredding riffs with typical headbanger titles ("Far Side of Hell", "Break the Chains"). Not especially exciting, but careful work on their 8-track redeems it somewhat. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BOOTBEAST, self-titled ($6 from PO Box 2012, Tempe, AZ 85280): From the remnants of Mighty Sphincter and Drunks with Guns comes this noisy, gloomy but melodic punk outfit. Tony Karaba's guitar work anchors things here, with noxious lyrics ("The Vein" being a particular downer) woven in. Lots of energy attached to a sound for late nights and lousy days. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BOOTSTRAPPERS, self-titled (New Alliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): A pickup project of improv genius Elliott Sharp and Minutemen veterans Mike Watt and George Hurley. Sharp leads things here with bastardized electronic equipment, synths and samplers, while Hurley and Watt provide a rhythm section in the background. The marriage doesn't always work, trying to keep manic energy going with some structure, and some of the sampling is pretty dreary—but there are tracks here with definite potential. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BOOGER SAFETY PILL BARN, "Mishmash of Awful" ($2 from PO Box 2143, Stow, OH 44224): This tape comes in a handcrafted sleeve fro the artists themselves. THat's the good news. THe bad news is that the word "tinny" might have been invented to describe this group. THere are moments when they approach the world with childlike wonder and the tape almost makes it—but they're few and far between. After a while listening becomes a maddening exercise in self-torment, as they whine on and on. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE BROKEN TOYS, "Smash Some Pumpkins" b/w "Technicolor Girl" (Trashtone Records, 26 Milk Ave., Methuen, MA 01844): A perky garage-rock single. The A side is a sort of anti-holiday song, where not only Halloween but Valentine's day and even Christmas come in for good-natured ribbing. The B side is a return to the stupid lyrics and endless repetition of days of yore. Nice clean sound, and they seem to be having fun. (45/MG)

★★★★★

BRIAN BROMBERG, "Magic Rain" (Intima Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Basically free jazz in the modern mode, mostly pretty relaxed and gentle. There are a few harder tracks, like "Rio D'", which get the juices flowing. Brian's claim to fame is apparently his bass technique, which gets him carried away into self-indulgent stuff like "Just the Bass", a singularly dull technical demonstration. Fairly nice stuff, but I'd rather listen to the Dictators. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE BUD COLLINS TRIO, "Shaky TOwn" (50 THompson Rd., North Franklin, CT 06254): A rousing, energetic and riveting release that's one part lounge music to one part rock and roll. It's all here, present, and to the fore—there are no hidden subtleties of any kind. It's a full-scale aural assault of music with an offbeat outlook that accounts for the little things that get slipped in that help to accentuate each of the different songs. (T/CS)

★★★★★

BULLET LAVOLTA, "The Gift" (Taang! Records c/o RCA, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036): There's only five guys in this band, but it sounds like a whole lot more. Bullet LaVolta pound out high energy rock, not caring too much about polish, and letting the shouted vocals fall where they may. The result is an aural explosion, like a pit bull on amphetamines, ready to tear your ears off. No metal, no spandex, no puffery, no bombast—just raw rock and roll. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BWANA FROLIC & FRIENDS, "Wilding, You Make My Swamp Thing" (Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): I looked at the instrumental lineup on this cassette and the array of instruments tantalized me: violin, saxophone, didgeridoo, bass clarinet, rototoms, etc. are all included. However, most of the performers are unable to coax interesting sounds out of their instruments during this live performance and the piece is for the most part uncreatively overpercussive. Most of the time I was left wondering where the rest of the lineup was. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

... but Pavletich riffs on this theme for 45
... never gets boring. Many of her
... a teasing bar stripper
... are sensual and
... rap on

Many of her visual images, such as a teasing bar stripper or a bed shared with 20 cats, are sensual and provocative yet searingly personal; her rap on Marilyn Monroe (who'd have thought there was anything left to say?) is a minor masterpiece.

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CAMOUFLAGE, "Methods of Silence" (Atlantic Records, 9229 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069): Yeah, it's on a major label—but I like it. So what? These three Germans play a lovable mostly synthetic (though with real instruments like oboe and violins too) techno-pop that, at its best, has an affecting wistfulness of the sort more often found in the cinema. "Your Skinhead Is the Dream" is a neat, slow-moving love-song, while "On Islands" is everything pop should be: bouncy, upbeat, and memorable. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JEFF CARNEY, "Imperfect Space Journeys" (Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): In his liner notes, Jeff apologizes for an "unpolished" recording and dedicates the tape to the "obvious influences". WHile the recording is hardly amateurish (Jeff has first class equipment), his tribute to his favorite artists (Jean Michelle Jarre being one) sound hauntingly like the originals. "Cloud #9" has so many Jarre trademark hooks you'd swear it was an outtake from "Oxygene". It would be nice to see Jeff use some of his talent to produce more original compositions. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

JOE "KING" CARRASCO AND THE EL MOLINO BAND, "Teex-Mex-Rock-Roll" (ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): This is a re-issue of the album that started it all, originally out on vinyl a bit over a decade ago. It stands the test of time, still sounding fresh today and not belching loudly to call attention to its homemade origins. There's a lot of slow stuff here, more than I remember from his later releases, and one cut I would even call Tex-Mex Doo-Wop. Dance to it, drink cheap Mexican beer to it, enjoy it. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CARRION DOG, "Demo Z" (PO Box 203, Fairfax, VA 22030): Second demo from this far-out mutable rock band. THey do an industrial number, some grungey rock, and a few other things, including a remake of "Art Fag" from their first demo. "Sex Girl" is pubescent fantasy material; "Grizzley Adams Memorial Jam" takes the knife of satire to "Tone deaf white trash guitar regurgitation." Still not the best sound quality, and less humorous than their first, but better sounding. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE CAUSE, "Courage" ($4 from 8 Bloomfield Dr., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060): Hardcore punk that at times sounds like a parody of the genre, as when the singer bites off phrases and spits them out with more regard for rhythm than meaning. But this may just be rough production; when the music and vocals click together, the result is pretty good. "Because" is an example of this, a strong song about individuality. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CHAZZ, "Make Me Happy" (Mystic Music, Rte. 1 Box 44, Yukon Rd., Taft, TN 38488): A light-hearted and airy upbeat cross between jazz, new age, classical and instrumental. It's flowingly timeless, conjuring up paradisical visions. THe energy is there, but it's not forced out through volume or heavy-handedness; rather it comes through int he confident and creative application of the music. (T/CS)

★★★★★

THE CLINTS, "No Place Like Home" (Skyclad, 6 Valley Brook Dr., Middlesex, NJ 08846): I listened to this one over and over and over again. A class-A exuberantly vivacious guitar-driven rock album ("countrified Clash") with a slap-happy attitude that spills over into every song. Diversity galore and a high entertainment value. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

CODE ZERO "Process of Improvisation" (5404 College Ave. No.2, Oakland, CA 94618): Electronic experimental music. The track "Alien Insect Debate" sounds just like the title, with all sorts of buzzing and whirring insecty sounds in what sounds like a genuine argument amongst various kinds of bugs. Nice sounds for laying back and daydreaming. (T/CER)

★★★★★

SHAWN COLVIN, "Steady On" (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): Quiet and pensive folkie music that occasionally shows a bit of pure strength beneath the lilting vocals. Shawn's guitar and voice are backed up by a variety of other musicians, but their work is never intrusive, and her presence carries the record. I particularly liked the title cut and "Something to Believe In" anthems of hope in a confusing world. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CRANIAL WARFARE, "Flagellation" (Stungus Music, PO Box 6963, San Mateo, CA 94403): THis great tape is full of goodies like bumbling bs from Ronnie Reagan, a cracked evangelist type, a goofy interchange betwixt a gun-lover and a radio show host who doesn't like him very much, and multitudes of others, layered with all sorts of neat musics and sounds, and some trippy synth here and there. If you like that creepy prickly feeling we all get sometimes when our brains are assaulted by complete oddness, you simply *must* get yourself a copy of this genius stuff. The liner is fun, too—all handwritten and pasted-on pictures of things like siamese twins and screaming fetuses. (T/CER)

★★★★★

CRASH WORSHIP, "This" ($6 from M. Wolff c/o Rocco Fresco, PO Box 404, Encinitas, CA 92024): Tribal rhythms and eerie instrumentation wander through a series of improvisational tracks here. The tape comes with a booklet of drawing and collage which lends esoteric meanings to some of these sound chunks, giving credence to the mind-altering intent. Night music for unspecified ceremonies. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CRAWLING WITH TARTS, "Tudor Tapes" ($5 from 1803 Mission #316, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-5296): Rompy rhythms, Celticy melodies and pretty poetry all make this tape nice happy listening. There are some slow, ballady songs with a sort of reverb sound in the guitar that lends an eerie background to lilting, deadpan female vocals. The tape comes in a pleasant green cardstock packet. (T/CER)

★★★★★

CROCODILE SHOP, "Lullaby" ($8 from Susstones Records, PO Box 6425, Minneapolis, MN 55406): A followup to the band's "Head" EP, this one continues the weaving of their new wavish psychedelic style together to make a strong combination. THis is sort of traditional pop updated with a melange of references and a darker sound (no bubblegum here!). It won't appeal to just anyone, being in that no-man's-land of too soft for headbangers and too hard for laid back types, but for those with open minds, it's an interesting experience. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CRUST, self-titled ($4 from Buttery Licious Productions, 5309 Link, Austin, TX 78751): Heavy-duty industrial music with sampling thrown in for good measure. Crust creates multiply-layered sonic images, ripe with found noises and lots of clanging. Vocals tend to be primal screams more than anything else. The tape cover features a deranged drawing which adequately captures the spirit of the tape—they're loud and rhythmic and don't care who knows it. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CRYPTIC SOUP, "Hell..." b/w "Jar of Frogs" (Daphlor-Ed, 468 6th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215): A debut which would be much better if the vocals didn't sound like they were coming through an old sock. Other than that, though, the band puts together an intriguing mix of wild sounds, with trumpet and harmonica acting to kick the keyboards and drums into new realms of mania. There's perhaps some Sonic Youth echo here, and although the lyrics are no great shakes, they could go somewhere with some effort. (45/MG)

★★★★★

EMILIO CUBEIRO, "Death of an Asshole" (Widowspeak Productions, PO Box 1085, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013-1085): Spoken word (with the addition of mellow background instrumentals) at the intersection of sex and violence, whether this be an exploration of a child's sexuality or rape by a

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police officer. Emilio goes far, far beyond the bounds of good taste (it's not surprising to see a warning label here, or learn that this is already banned in 18 countries) to try to break loose the snakes that are lurking in most brains. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DAS DAMEN, "Mousetrap" (Twin\Tone Records, 2541 Nicollet Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55404): Yeah, so it would be easy to dismiss these guys as hard rock copycats with a bit of psychedelia mixed in. It would be easy, that is, if they didn't sound so darned good on the turntable. The range of music on just this one record is great, from soft ballads to crunchy rock, and they pull it all off with aplomb. Call it what you want, pop, rock, it's great music without undue pretensions. And it sounds fine. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DEAD GOLDFISH ENSEMBLE, "Eye To Eye" ($6 from G. Gasiorowski, Violet Glass Oracle, 6230 Lewis Ave. Lot 105, Temperance, MI 48182): Sonic explorations from a mysterious group (or person—even this is not clear) in England. The tracks have names like "IC" and "IF". Mostly they are synthesizer developments, playing back and forth with simple noises and rhythms until a point of near exhaustion sets in—but generally they know when to stop. On the B side some bird and animal noises are added, but I'm not sure they were an aid to the simple purity of the music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DEAD ON, self-titled (SBK Records, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104): Power metal with a bit of speed that will give your woofers a real workout. Along with a full-bodied sound, Dead On provide lyrics that wander away from the usual stuff. Oh sure, they're still singing about death and such cheerful subjects, but in situations like "The Matador's Nightmare" ("He could not believe what he heard/the crowd they all cheered as he bled") rather than the usual amorphous ranting. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DEER TRANSFIXED BY HEADLIGHTS, "Prisoners of Context" ($4 from Bangaway Productions, 1460 Cornell Rd., Atlanta, GA 30306): A two-person project with Ian Mykel on drums and Debbey Richardson providing guitar and vocals. Her voice sets the context for this music, somewhere between a scream and a yell, leading to a music that is very punk, i.e., not pretty. It's tough to listen to at first, but accepted on its own terms, becomes rather interesting. Emotion over form, leading to a feel of being assaulted. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE DEL LORDS LIVE, "Howlin' at the Halloween Moon" (Enigma, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Roscoe's the one playin' that lowdown and dirty slide guitar on "True Love".... And damned if he don't put the "T" in "Twang" on "Wastin' Time Talin'" Top ten does the total freakout jam in "The Cool 'n' the Crazy"...All of Scott's guitar work is panned left, while Eric be jammin' on your right...Manuel rides shotgun up the middle "with de bottom most bass". [From the liner notes of the cassette release—sometimes they can be informative.] (T/KJ)

★★★★★

DEPO-PROVERA, self-titled (426 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54303): Featuring the Rev. Nørb on vocals, this band tries to think of itself as the musical analog of his zine SICK TEEN. Well, they're crazy enough to pull it off, with a couple of beer-soaked numbers (including "I'm Not a Date (I'm an Alcoholic)" and a Gilligan's Island cover ("You Need Us"). THe music is loose and rocking, a tribute to a pop culture that eats its own young and regurgitates them in new form rather than a complete rebellion. Cool stuff. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

GORDON DERRY, "Parallel Dimensions" (Runestone Productions, 2105 Honeywell Ave., Ottawa, ONT, K2A 0P7, CANADA): Solo electronic musical musings. Gordon's works sweep from the forest to the stars, moving slowly (at times majestically) from theme to theme. It's unmistakably synthetic music, not attempting to imitate other instruments, but not completely lost in its own hardware either. Eerie in spots and easy in others. (T/MG)

★★★★★

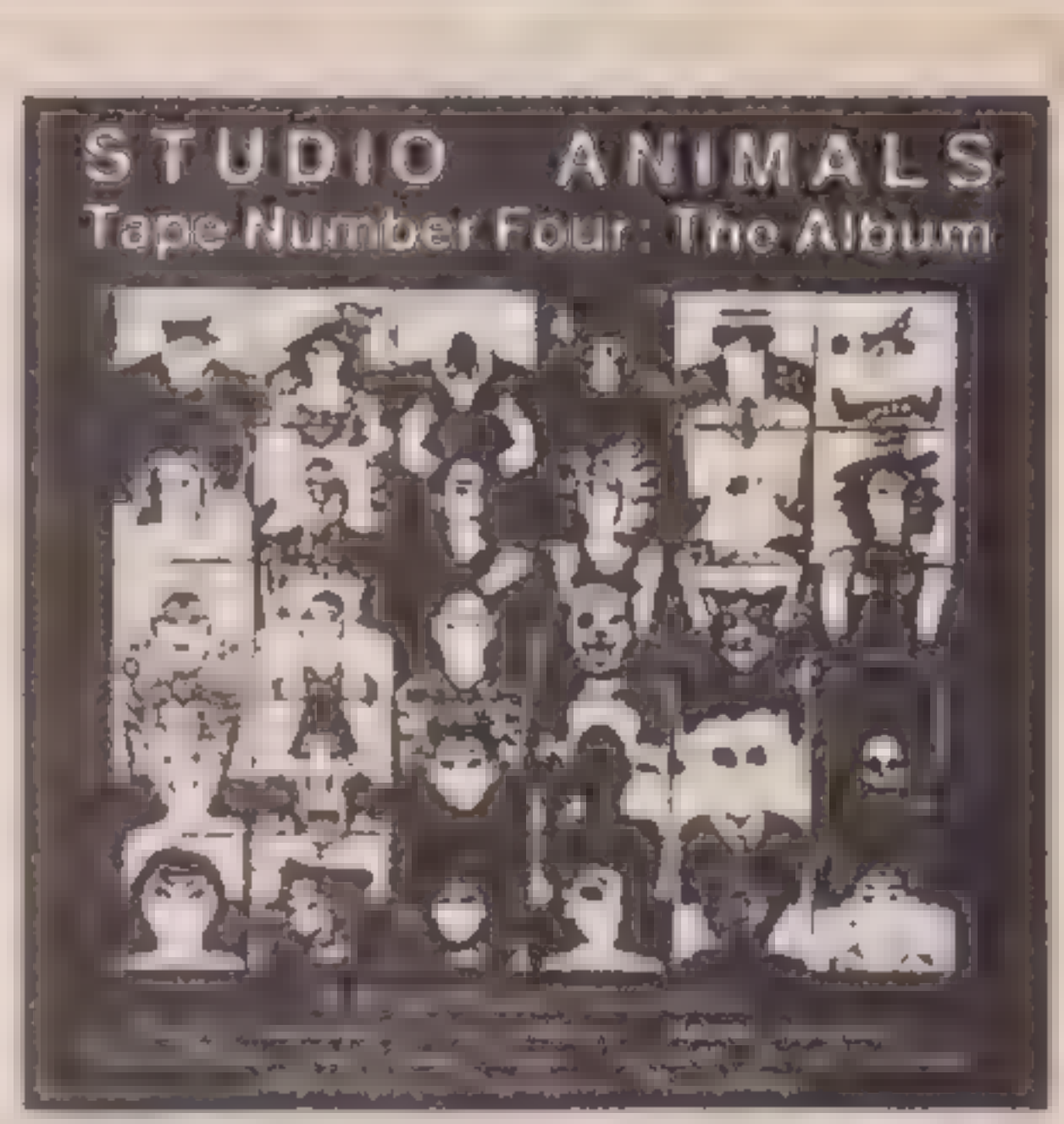
BO DIDDLEY, "Breakin' Through the B.S." (Triple X Records, 6715 Hollywood Blvd. #284, Hollywood, CA 90028): Yes, that's *the* Bo Diddley, in his first legitimate album release in a decade. There's plenty here to please old fans who remember the classic rock/blues sound. But Bo has also put together some tracks with a new, less traditional sound, like "You Tricked Me". "Down With the Pusher" is a forthright anti-drug song, while "Wake Up America!" tries to point out some other problems in the world. (LP/MG)

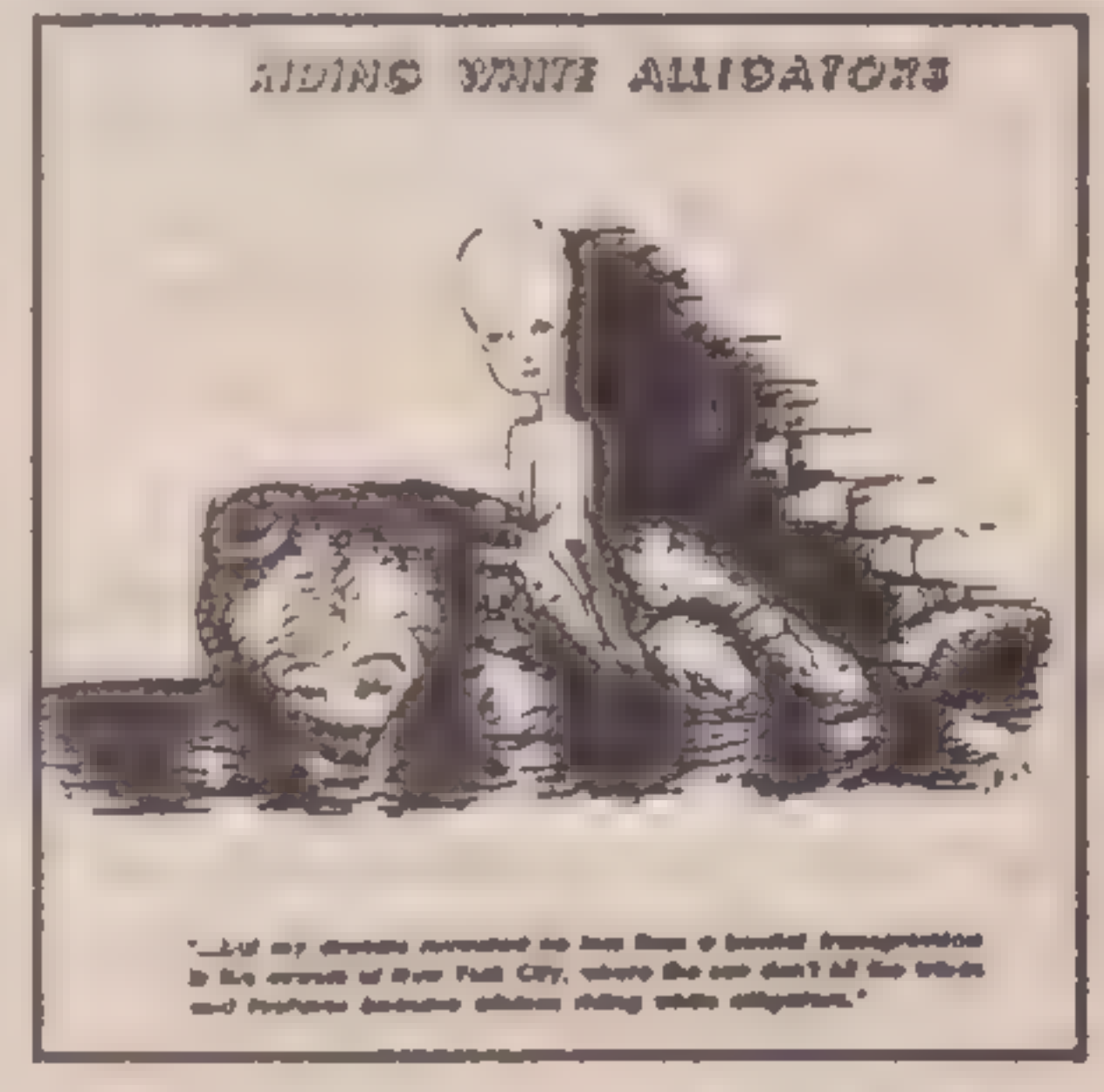
★★★★★

DIMENTIA 13, "Disturb The Air" ($6.98 plus $3.25 s&h from Midnight Mail Order, PO Box 390, Old CHelsea Stn., New York, NY 10011): A solo project from Bradley Warner which, with the addition of Louanne Varholick and drummer Witold Janczak, has grown into a respected psychedelic group. They go in for a sort of acid-bathed interwoven textured style, very light on the guitar assaults, but definitely still an outgrowth of the Summer of Love. Pleasant and even exciting in spots. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DIRGE, "Soulstorm" (Anthrax Records, 25 Perry Ave., Norwalk, CT 06850): Damned if I know where they got the name, since this thrash punk is about as far from dirgelike as you can imagine. THey do throw in the occasional change of pace, but it generally goes from fast to faster. The lyrics are mostly





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pretty challenging to the system, while also jabbing those who would drop out through drugs (without being straightedge about it). Good stuff. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DISCO ASSASSINS, "Pudding" ($3 from Dumb Artists Collective, 172 CHestnut St. #209, Springfield, MA 01103): Live and studio tracks from this jammin' bunch of crazies. They take off from disco and leave it in the dirt, blending in rock, humor, and yee-haw yells for a sound of their own. SOmetimes abrasive but never dull. COmes with a sheet of instructions called the Disco Assassin's Handbook. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DON DIXON, "EEE" (Enigma Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Pretty lush mainstream rock with decidedly Southern influences of several types: "Silent Screen" is sort of archetypical U.S. Southern rock, while other tracks have a hint of Third World rhythm and instrumentation, Don also goes retro with a Motownish "GImme Little Sign", and puts new life into a college rock cliche with "Bad Reputation". On the other hand the title track is your basic moronic dance music and there are a couple of others that miss the mark, making this a somewhat uneven outing. But there's enough nuggets to make it worthwhile. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DOGBOWL, "TIT! (An Opera)" (Shimmy DIsc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10116): It's dark, but not too dark, hazy, but not too hazy, offbeat, but not too offbeat. Post-punk nuclear meltdown coffee house dance music gone awry. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

DOS, "Numero Dos" (New ALliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): Two bass guitars and occasional vocals—but the result is pretty good. That may be because of the people behind the guitars: Mike Watt (Minutemen, fIREHOSE) and his wife Kira (Black Flag). Thanks to the bass, they put out a sort of dark and murky sound, but the vocals crank it back up. Includes covers of SOnic Youth and Billy Holiday songs as well as originals. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

THE DOUGHBOYS, "Home Again" (Restless Records, PO Box 3628, CUlver City, CA 90231): A rollicking energetic release that resonates with the crash and clang of energetic guitars. Very power-pop oriented, it floats on the fringes of punk consciousness. The briskly driving melodies call to mind such bands as The Replacements, the Heartbreakers, and Husker Du. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

the drowningbreathing, "Melancholy EMotionless" ($3 from Michael Pittard, 632 State Capitol St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5260): Sort of gothic instrumentals that sound like they should be accompanied by a fog machine. The structure here is minimalist, with small vocal sketches thrown in amidst the beats and whines on an infrequent basis. Slow progress through a series of downbeat moods characterizes the music here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE EARL RAYS, self-titled (344 Hemlock, Cleveland, OH 44017): THis is straightforward stuff, mostly focused around power guitar with a lot of funky, rhythmic stuff to back it up. No frills, no fuss here, just good clean (?) fun. (T/CS)

★★★★★

EARTH PIG, self-titled (Power Dog Records, PO Box 348, Hawthorne, NJ 07507): Hard-edged rock with plenty of clangorous guitar work. The three cuts here are enough to show a lot of energy as well as some youthful vocal posturing that they'll probably get over in time. Nothing to challenge, say, Led Zeppelin yet, but they do set up a nice wall of sound. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

ED THE MEAT POET, "Meat Poetry" ($5 from C.E. Emmer, 25-03 36th St. #3F, L.I.C. (Astoria), NY 11103): From the "Meat Poet Manifesto": "To meatless poetry, we the Meat Poets, say: SHIT!/The power of poetry must not be wasted as it has been by/all the flowery nymphs of literary awards/on Non-visceral nonsense!". This tape takes that to heart, with 21 poems addressing meat, bodily functions, and other earthy concerns. Hilarious, especially in the philosophical and psychological sections. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

THE EFFIGIES, "Remains Nonviewable" ($6 from ROadkill Records, PO Box 37, Prospect Heights, IL 60070): A classic look back at the roots of the "Chicago [punk] Sound", featuring 15 songs re-mastered from their first four records. The style is somewhere between hardcore and punk, with just the vagues breaths of metal and country thrown in for good measure, and lots of energy. Loud, sometimes rude, and pissed off at the world, the Effigies set a standard for many other bands to follow. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

EGG, "Smell Me Fist" (45¢ postage from Chris Ballew, 3 Wesley Park #4, Somerville, MA 02143): I thought this was a highly enjoyable, friendly little release that effectively presented playfully offbeat electronic music. It left me wanting to hear more. (T/CS)

★★★★★

ELEVENTH DREAM DAY, "Beet" (Atlantic Records, 9229 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069): This is Eleventh Dream Day's major label debut, and they sound pretty good, with the extended guitar blasts and apparent complete lack of concern for plastic polish in their music. The music has a vaguely 60's sound, but it's hardened by an edge of 80's punk, with the twin guitars of Baird Figi and Rick Rozzo fuelling the fun. Country psychedelic noise, maybe, but you'd better not take that image too literally. (T/MG)

★★★★★

EMPYRE, "No More Running Away" (Coat of Arms, PO Box 2404, Setauket, NY 11733): Power trio rock with a slight metallic edge and lyrics that sometimes have a Blue Oyster Cultish bombastic edge to them. But the gloss on the music is high, the production is good, and the music does get the old juices flowing nicely. SO don't write them off just because they sound commercial; they also produce some darned good songs. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

THE EXIT, "The Word" (Arglebargle Society, PO Box 30116, St. Louis, MO 63119): Pleasant guitar rock that proves the homemade tapes can sound damn near as good as professional vinyl. These guys are into examining the world and reporting back on the silly things people do while trying to maintain a belief in ideals. From the rework of the Lord's Prayer to the morbid "I Am Dead" to the wistful closing cut "The Cliff", they manage to hold the listener's interest while communicating. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JAD FAIR and DANIEL JOHNSTON, "Daniel Johnston and Jad Fair" (50 Skidillion Watts Records, 572 SE Laguna Ave., Stuart, FL 34997): Sounds to me as if these two have gone and smoked all your Mother Goose books, shot up on all your Twilight Zone episodes and ingested a pretty fair amount of musical "what if" attitude. The end result is this wildly offbeat and diversely entertaining meandering waltz through the melting twelfth dimension of reality: simple ditties gone wild with a beat-performance flair. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

FATTBURGER, "Time WIll Tell" (Intima Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): These guys call what they're doing, a keyboard-heavy sound, "R&J"—for "Rhythm & Jazz". And indeed it moves with a more upbeat sound and a more constrained structure than a lot of jazz these days. The blues sneak in around the edges, giving the music yet another dimension. Hot tracks: "Oh GIrl" and "Back to Jersey". Most of the stuff here is strictly instrumental, though a few have vocal tracks as well. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FIRE MERCHANTS, self-titled (Medusa Records, PO Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Progressive recordings led by guitar whiz John Goodsall. Instrumentals often sound incomplete and boring to me, but this is neither; the members of the band have created a sound which vocals would only detract from, like tail fins on a new Mustang. THere are some quiet jazzy pieces here, but there's also levels of hardness increasing right up to the killer rocker "Saladin". (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TODD FLETCHER, "Songs From 3 Phases" (Poison Plant, 7 Woodsend Pl., ROckville, MD 20854): Ethereal, new-agey jazz, with the standard keyboards and programmed drums. Each song is an evident contemplation of things like storms or convergence. Very soothing and meditational, but not inspiring. (T/DW)

★★★★★

TODD FLETCHER, "A Whispering VOice" ($5 from Poison Plant, 7 Woodsend Pl., Rockville, MD 20854): Gentle mellow synthesizer instrumentals. Much of this has a woodlands background feel, receding from consciousness in an almost ambient way. A few perkier, almost jazzy tracks re-engage the listener, until another bout of quiet material drifts off again. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE FLUID, "Roadmouth" (Sub Pop Records, 1932 1st Ave. #1103, Seattle, WA 98101): Psychedelic scratched raw hoarse and hoary, rough and hairy, trashin', slam & dance gettin' down yeah we're wicked dirty cow-country crunch metal. Whew. And if you think that was an eyeful of reading, just imagine the earful you'll get listening. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

GEORGE FOX/TREIOPS TREYFID, "Knots" (Poison Plant, 7 Woodsend Pl., ROckville, MD 20854): Per the cassette insert, Knots is a multimedia performance based on Thomas Coles historic "Voyage of Life" paintings. It was performed live at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, before the controversy over Federal arts funding began. The basic theme seems to be immersion/transformation and it is brought to life by elegant yet urgent monologues and instrumentals (mainly keyboards). Its recurring themes and presentations are highly effective and mesmerizing. I would place this on a level with Laurie Anderson's "U.S. Live" or Art Zoyd's "Le Mariage Du Ciel Et De L'Enfer". After listening, I long for a video release. Highly recommended. (Note: Fox & Treyfid wrote the soundtrack, David Aub produced and directed, Aub & others performed.) (T/KJ)

★★★★★

NYLE FRANK, "Theme From Hickory Hollow" ($8 from Centipede Productions, PO Box 121832, Nashville, TN 37212): A tape of unaccompanied solo piano by Nyle, moving from the Pachelbel Canon in D Major on up to Bob Dylan and John Lennon, as well as a few of his original tunes. I like his choice of music, I like his arrangements, I like to settle down in the late evening with a tape like this and try to relax for at least a few moments. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FRANK FRENCH, "Tango Brasiliero" (Double Eagle Piano Company, PO Box 1452, El TOro, CA 92630): I don't hear a lot of tangos these days, and what I know about the form you could put in a teaspoon with room to spare. That said, I enjoyed this tape. Frank plays a selection of works by Brazilian composer Ernesto Nazareth, who died in 1934. THe music—on unaccompanied piano—is upbeat, bouncy, fun and well-played. I could stand to hear a lot more of this. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SIEGMAR FRICKE, "Militant Stuff" (Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A mix of dance music electronics and sampled vocals from quite a library of sources. The beat is fast, the music is technically flawless, and the vocals transform it into something else entirely. Good collage works as well in audio as it does visually, and it works here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE FRONT, self-titled (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): CLassic psychedelic rock from Kansas City. There are plenty of echoes of an earlier time here; they sound like COuntry Joe and the Fish on some of their more leisurely numbers, but that may be only because I'm a big fan of the latter band. Anyhow, this is forward-looking as well, more concerned with energy than picture-perfect imitation of great riffs from the past, and undeniably passionate. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

F.U.C.T., "Forever Ungratical Corinaric Technikilation" ($7.25 from Carlyle Records, PO Box 150708, Nashville, TN 37215): Crunchy, heavy, well-produced metalcore from a Nashville quartet. All the music here is powerful with growly, menacing vocals and turbulent guitars. Definitely not for quiet homes as the impulse to crank this tape is hard to resist. If you get into Squirrel Bait, this one's for you. (T/CER)

★★★★★

FULL FATHOM FIVE, "Multinational Pop Conglomerate" (Link Records, 277 Church St 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10013): Somewhat moody college rock that's been polished to the point where their sound is both distinctive and pleasurable—which may account for their success on the charts. It's tough to describe what makes this special—it reminds me a bit of what the Monkees could have been if they were a serious band rather than a joke; "Pleasant Valley Sunday" is to this stuff as the archaeopteryx is to a trumpeter swan. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TOM FURGAS & MARK KISSINGER, "Standing on Our Heads in a Vacuum" ($5 from Something in the Water, PO Box 485, Sharon, PA 16146): A collection of improvisations consisting of keyboards, guitar, bass and drum machine, my favorite being "Two Years After", with a lurching jazzy feel that swirls through the piece. I do miss the soul that a real drummer could have given some of these pieces. Except on "Two Years After", the machine seems to be holding Tom & Mark in check. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

THE FUZZTONES, "In Heat" (Beggars Banquet c/o RCA, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036): Rudi Portrudi and company are still turning out classic rock and roll using what would be called period instruments if they were in the classical world: Vox Continental organ, Rickenbacker Guitars, and so on. They put these together to form all sorts of pop/rock instant classics, from the morbid "Charlotte's Remains" to the hopping "Me Tarzan You Jane". Echoes of all the sixties groups you know and love are here, along with a modern sensibility that keeps them from being just another batch of retro-rockers. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

FYDLSTYX, "Tunes From the Great War" ($8.50 from Fiddle Around c/o Rick Ulman, PO Box 15075, St. Louis, MO 63110): Fydlstyx is Bob Butler and Rick Ulman. WIth fiddle, fife, banjo, hammered guitar, concertina and other period instruments, they recreate "Civil War Music as Your Great-Great Grandpa Heard It". Most of these tunes are instrumentals, and none of them were familiar to me—but it was rollicking fun to listen to this tape nonetheless. These guys really love their music, and their enthusiasm comes through loud and clear. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FZ13, "Hold Your Breath Forever" (Aptitude Records, PO Box 1274, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266): Dark and edgy pop/rock, with a definite sound of a band beyond the usual. "Atlanta", a song dedicated to the memory of the murdered kids in that city, is exceptionally strong, forceful enough to carry the whole album itself. But, in the company of other gruelling cuts like "Long Dark Night in Texas" and "Evil Sleeps WIth Good", it doesn't have to. You can hang lots of "post" labels on this music, but it does just fine without them as an example of primal, raw energy. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

GIANT SAND, "Giant Sandwich" (Homestead, PO Box 800, ROckville Centre, NY 11571-0800): American roadhouse honky tonk bent through a grooving surrealistic musical prism of dusty dirty funkiness. Strange but true musical tales from the desert that have been seared by the sun into weirdly fantastical shapes: twangin' and lamentin' and whinin' and rockin'. It's Johnny Cash jamming with Green on Red, ealy X-inspired Gun Club gone Meat Puppets style. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

ELIZA GILKYSON, "Legends of Rainmaker" (Gold Castle, 3575 Cahuenga Blvd. W #435, Los Angeles, CA 90068): Gilkyson glows with a burnished warmth and mellow richness that becomes her music well. Her voice is clear and pure, her delivery strong and true. THe music itself is an earthy blend of folk, roots and rock, delivered with a softer ambience than most who do this sort of thing; but it's an ambience that doesn't in any way compromise the strength of the material or the performer. (T/CS)

★★★★★

THE GIRLIES, "Felon" b/w "Back To The City" (Hecuba Records, PO Box 1022, Davis, CA 95617): This Brisbane-based band takes their musical cue from some of the great Detroit bands of the past, notably MC5—though their sound is not as full, as exciting, as that classic stuff. Still, they do a good job of cranking out the amperage, and if the lyrics are nothing more than repeated nonsense, well, that's traditional too. Exhilarating in its simplicity. (45/MG)

★★★★★

GLASS EYE, "Hello Young Lovers" (Bar/None, PO Box 1704, Hoboken, NJ 07030): "Quirky" and "Eccentric" are the standard music critic words to describe this sort of album: basically rock but with a wide-ranging set of influences. The most notable part of this is that the vocals switch among all four members of the group (two of each sex), and the rhythms tend to change suddenly, mutating the song in a sort of free jazz spirit. Probably their most typical song (if there is such a thing) is "The Penguin", a confusing indictment of the medical profession from a paranoid point of view. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MARK GRAHAM, "Natural Selections" (3931 S. Ferdinand St., Seattle, WA 98118): Delightful folk music featuring fiddle, harmonica, and Mark's voice. He does some traditional tunes, but he also does some wonderful social commentary: "Their Brains Were Too Small And They Died" (about dinosaurs and people), "THe Big Band THeory" (a folky history of the universe) and "Have a Nice Day" (a song for a kinder, gentler society) all stand out. Definitely a find. (T/MG)

★★★★★

GRAINS OF FAITH, self-titled (PO Box 4995, Austin, TX 78765): I don't know how they do it, but the city of Austin is still turning out good new rock acts. These folks re in the roots category, distinguished by the tradeoff vocals between several band members (and guest Kim Longacre) and the violin playing of Susan Velz. Add in the usual rock instruments plus a piano and you get a downright full sound, easy to listen to and suited to their songs of love and life. (T/MG)

★★★★★

HANDICAP PORNO, "We're Not Birds, We're a Jugband" (Larry Harmon, 1650 SMoketree Dr., El Centro, CA 92243): Tongue-in-cheek punk music that's a bit softer than most hardcore but definitely harder than most rock. They get into some current events with "Big Hair", a song about the stupidest fashion of recent times, and get serious with "Hypocrisy". Some of their songwriting reminds me of the Dead Milkmen, but the music has much less polish. (T/MG)

★★★★★

HANDS TO, "Vinhiliation" (Complacency Productions, PO Box 1452, Palatine, IL 60078): The liner notes indicate that "this material is meant to affect the human central nervoice system"—and it certainly does its best to live up to its intent. Pulsing, whooshing and rumbling, it gives the effect of being one with a storm-ravaged midwestern plain (in a manner similar to the opening of Koyaanisquatsi where the clouds rumble by and the music sweeps the listener into the effect of nature, only this is darker and more ominous in style). (EP/CS)

★★★★★

HOLEIST / ILLUSION OF SAFETY, self-titled ($7 from Complacency, PO Box 1452, Palatine, IL 60078): A split LP from a couple of experimental bands. Illusion of Safety provides slow, languid electronics and altered sounds, vaguely reminiscent of the music I hear in my head when I read 1984. Holeist are harsher, into sampling and noisemaking, closer to the industrial end of the spectrum, and not as much up my alley. Frontiers in music. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

HOLLOW HEYDAY, "Abandoned"(Tantrum Records, PO Box 657, Cambridge, MA 02238): High guitar content sloppy rock, fast and furious and more than a bit annoying. The worst feature is the placement of three-second snippets of guitar thrash between real tracks, in a move designed to annoy DJs. But every once in a while things come together and they pound out something that might last; "Got No Birthday" and "Big" fall into this category. They sure don't make it easy to learn to like their stuff, though. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

HUGH, "Plasma Bat" ($7 from Plasma Bat Music, PO Box 340, Metamora, MI 48455): Arty perky rock that's synthesized but not plastic. Hugh has a strange sense of humor that comes out delightfully on "Flap (Your Membrane Wings)", a sort of ode to bathood. THere's also a number of bouncy instrumentals here, fast-moving stuff that doesn't stand still long enough to get boring. Pretty professional sounding. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ICEPICK MAGACHINE #2 ($1 from Clawhammer Labels c/o Krouse, RD 2 Box 166, New Castle, PA 16101): This is something new, a horror story ("A Dark Night") with accompanying soundtrack. The story is pretty basic, with the narrator being tracked down by an unnamed Thing. Every once in a while you get to a big black dot, and then play the tape to hear the sound effects for that part. At the end of the tape there's some eerie music without SFX, in case you'd rather read it that way. Not too slick, but not expensive either. (T & M-8/MG)

★★★★★

I•C•U•TV, "Get Up & Go" b/w "Temperamental Lies" ($2.50 from Tough Suspect Records, 419 Boylston Ave. E #2, Seattle, WA 98102): This band is mostly Wendi Dunlap, publisher of WOW! fanzine. Backed up with drum machine and her own rhythm guitar, she lays down a couple of steady and fun pop songs, with an appealing roughness to their simplicity. "Get Up & Go" is the one I like better, with its easy message of having fun and its danceable music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

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ICEHOUSE, "Great Southern Land" (Chrysalis, 645 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): Particularly strong and emphatic new wave pop/rock with danceable rhythms and an urgency that comes through throughout. THe music is very likeable, accessible and has "hit" written all over it; it stands shoulder to shoulder with bands such as INXS, The Fixx and even (a little bit) SImple Minds. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

"Idiots On The Phone" ($3 from Zadfruc Tapes, PO Box 3592, Oak Park, IL 60302): For a while their catalog listed this as unavailable, but they seem to have decided to take their chances with the law again. This is about an hour of recordings of prank phone calls, some to 800 numbers, some apparently to random folks from the phone book. There are some new ideas for harassing people and plenty of old ones. A choice selection of ways to pervert Al Bell's invention. (T/MG)

★★★★★

INFECT, self-titled ($4 from Provocative Punk Productions, Mark Murray, 419 Dawnridge Rd., Roseville, NJ 95678): Raucous punk rock that doesn't care who it pisses off. They move from the anticapitalist "Not So Mighty Buck: to a cover of the classic GG Allin song "Expose Yourself to Kids". Production value is surprisingly high for a demo tape, and the lyrics are pretty cool too—though some will find songs like "That's Not Funny" a bit extreme. (T/MG)

★★★★★

INTENSIVE CARE, "Assault Down Memory Lane" (Fresh SOunds, PO Box 36, Lawrence, KS 66044): Pop with a garage-rock overlay and songwriting of the type more usually found in hardcore: the rage of "Song to the FBI" and the bullheaded determination of "True Seeker" ("Fascism's at my door dressed up respectably/I see through the disguise, but few will listen to me") don't usually go with pop riffs and syncopated guitar cuts. But it works, and it sounds great, with enough studio production to dress the songs up without losing their heart. Social responsibility for those who detest loud noises. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MICHAEL JACKSON, "Live At Home" (PO Box 95. Sparks, NV 89432-0095): A "concept tape", the concept being to approach live performance. So each one is recorded individually, and there's a bit of magnetic tape inside that erases the music after one playing. THe one I got was mostly guitar noodlings, with a bit of Christian lyricism in one spot. An interesting idea, but it didn't go anywhere. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JAYWALKER, "Free Energy THrough Unconnected Coils Like Tesla & Reich Generators" ($5 from Tumult, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): Metallic punk from Switzerland, played with lots of emotion—and the main emotion here is anger. Lyrics are in several languages including English and Italian, but in general they seem to be grinding songs of opposition. The recording quality fluctuates a bit, but the band itself is very consistent. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE JAZZMEN, "The Real Sessions" (Death Jazz Records, PO Box 110155, Campbell, CA 95011-0155): Some of the best high-power guitar rock I've heard in a long time. WIth riffs and style that recall everyone from various dinosaurs right up to Sonic Youth, this trio plays with an energy that threatens to strike sparks from my headphones. Enjoyable noise. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JONES VERY, "Words And Days" (Hawker Records, 225 Lafayette St. #709, New York, Ny 10012): The press release calls this melodic rock, and that's true, but it's not the simple gentle stuff that may make you think of. These melodies are cranked out on high-power guitars, while Vic Bondi's dense, shouted vocals blast over them. The result is sonic intricacy that demands to be played loud, with lots of energy. The lyrics are printed on the album cover, and many of them speak of the taut edge of desperation in modern life. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF AMERICA, "Easy DInner Rolls" (PO Box 29156, Philadelphia, PA 19127): This group has been together less than a year but they're already out with a polished and good-sounding guitar rock demo. Fronted by Catherine Faulkner, they play classic rock, towards the pop end of the spectrum, with impressive vocal artistry. I really liked "Two is Two", a song for those not quite into not quite out of love. (T/MG)

★★★★★

KASSAV', "Majestik Zouk" (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): Zouk is a music out of Africa and the Caribbean by way of the French ANtilles—full of world beat rhythms but with high-tech dance-pop mixed in as well. The result is an exuberant blend that moves quickly enough to be energetic even if you can't understand any of the lyrics. Not as plasticized as many world beat releases, this one really seems to reflect a commitment to doing something different and international on the part of the group. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CHARLES RICK KELLY, "Set" (PO box 11304, Dallas, TX 75223): Funky fuzzy smoking rock songs by this one-an show. Kelly's stuff moves quickly along, and the songs have a point to them, though often not much more than that—this is for people who grove on the instruments, not the lyrics. That's fine, the music works, edging smoothly from one track into the next, maintaining energy and verve throughout. Would benefit from better production, but it's near the upper end of the home taping scale already. (T/MG)

★★★★★

KILLING TIME, "Brightside" (In-Effect Records, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): New York crossover (hardcore with metal influence) that delivers a reasonably powerful punch without going overboard. Their lyrics are pretty downbeat: "Welcome to the real world/where everyone's a fake" (from "What I want") and the overall message that comes through is one of almost nihilistic cynicism. But there's enough guitar blast here that most of their fans probably won't even notice the words. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

KATHY KING, "Rubber Chicken Rides Again!" ($4.85 from 636 Louise Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103): Bouncy, poppy rock and roll that's distinguished by Kathy's determination to employ "the lowest of the lowest in technology and semi-minimal playing abilities". With equipment from flea markets and Toys R Us, she manages to turn out some interesting tunes—the strongest limits are in the low-budget recording technology. All instrumental, most catchy and hummable. (T/MG)

★★★★★

KINGS OF WYOMING, self-titled (Community 2, 438 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211): Electrified country-rock from producer Albert Garzon, whose dispute with now-big-name 10,000 Maniacs over some early recordings still makes headlines in local fanzines. Cathy Crane, ex-Clambake member, provices some vocals. Well-done in the Silos tradition of eloquent minimalism. (EP/DW)

★★★★★

MARK KISSINGER, "Narcotica" ($5 from Something in the Water, PO Box 485, Sharon, PA 16146): Fast-paced jazz/pop fusion, with Mark providing all the instrumentation. Though parts sound synthetic, the label only lists guitar, bass and drums. Whatever the method, Mark comes up with tunes that draw the listener in, moving back and forth about the musical territory in an exploratory mode. Just as important, he knows when to stop, and so this release doesn't drag either. (T/MG)

★★★★★

KONSTRUKTIVISTS, "The Last Moments of 1923" (Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Carefully constructed, slowly unfolding, electronic/experimental rock from England. It has substance rather than flash, moving from tune to tune with ease and vigor. After a while it becomes a sort of total sound environment, seizing control of thoughts and emotions for the duration of the tape. Great with headphones. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ALGY KREBS QUARTET, "Parrots on Fire (and Other Signs of Hope)" ($8 from Smiley Turtle Records, PO Box 840, Champaign, IL 61824-0840): Proof of Utah fans will love this. Touted as "avant folk", it reminds me more of a dark, smokey New York cafe with a headline band consisting of Tom Waits, Bob Dylan and a few very drunk Lounge Lizards. Somehow, you can actually forgive the atrocious horn bleating and missed notes that crop up here and there because it makes it that much more fun to listen to. Recommended. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

KUSTOM KAR KOMMANDOS, "Rollin' Up Yer Colon" (Ecto Tapes, 5912 NW 62nd Terr, Oklahoma City, OK 73122): Fast and nasty white-boy rap/hiphop/rock you-name-it concoctions. They rage on just about everything, from "Geraldo Must Die!" to "Grainhead" (which has cruel things to say about their audiences' capabilities for understanding lyrics). They rip off everything from riffs to whole tunes on the way, having a good time while destroying any serious tone to music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

LATE 4 BREAKFAST, "You Are Here" (T.O.G. Recordings, PO Box 4542, Arlington, VA 22204): Late 4 Breakfast's second album is full of well-executed and complex but standard fusion. it's easy to swallow, though, and rapper Isalah Jefferson Jr. provides a necessary and innovative variation on the overworked jazz fusion theme. (T/DW)

★★★★★

LEFT BRAIN, "Water" ($10 from Breakfast Communications Corp., PO Box 176, Paoli, PA 19301): Left Brain is Paul Nordquist and Amy Guskin, and what they produce is arrestingly beautiful pop music. From the social consciousness of "Greenhouse" (about the effect, not the glass building) to the sheer silliness of "Swamp in the Center of Town", they take a wild and watery look at the world in the midst of bouncing keyboards, sax, trumpet, and interwoven vocals. Intensely hummable music. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

LIKE RAIN, "Razorblade Shoes" (600 Queen Anne Ave. N #121, Seattle, WA 98109): Mark Adler and Michael Chang turn out solid rock in a harminica-laden tradition that stretches from Bob Dylan to Danny and Dusty and beyone. Their cool playing, expressive lyrics, and generous touch of cynicism fit right into this universe. "Before the Turning" has great lyrics, though I'm darned if I know what they mean; a song for the apocalyptic 90's. (T/MG)

★★★★★

LONELY TRAILER, "I know what I'm doing, but you don't think so" ($8 from Smiley Turtle Records, PO Box 840, Champaign, IL 61824-0840): THree guys (Steve Burton, Brian Reedy and Tim Stephens) put together this unassuming and delightful pop record that belongs on your turntable if you're a fan of harmonies at all. Though there are instruments here, the core of their music is the interweaving of three voices, with somewhat silly and obscure lyrics. I like 'em. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

LORD LITTER, "Space Age" (Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): High-tension hypersonic mostly instrumental rock. There's a sense of crackling energy here, of instruments about to overload and release a barrage of noise in one crashing, ecstatic instant. Bouncy, edgy stuff. There's a space theme to most of the titles, and you could think of these as songs to achieve escape velocity. (T/MG)

★★★★★

LYDIA LUNCH, "Oral Fixation" (Widowspeak Productions, PO Box 1085, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013-1085): A spoken word performance from Lydia, recorded live in Detroit. It's an intense rant, delving into sexual frustration and assault, the inequities of society, and the depths of self-loathing: "I hate myself and I hate everything else too!" she screams towards the end. Not for the easily shocked or those who wish to remain complacent about the world. Turning over the rocks of the mind to see what wriggles underneath. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

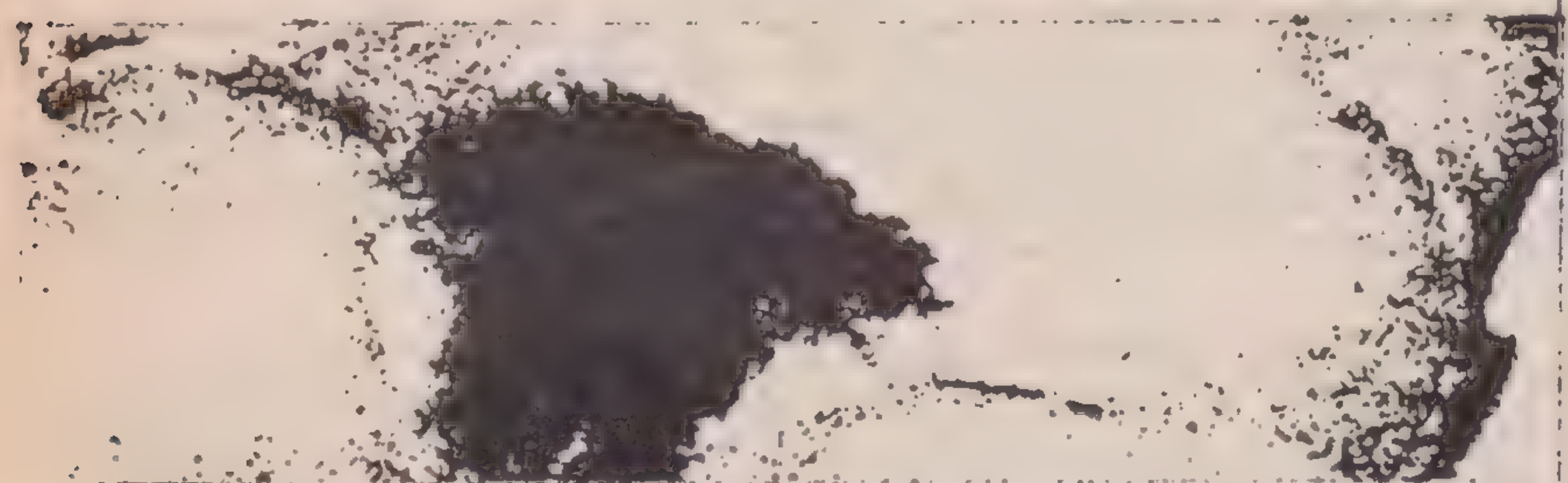
LUSH, "Scar" (4AD, 611 Broadway #311, New York, NY 10012): The British music press insists on comparing this four-piece to THrowing Muses, which does nothing to increase my opinion of the British music press. THe only point of similarity is their youth and originality. These tunes are swirling, with interwoven vocals but without the Muses' manic edge of hysteria energy. Instead, Lush draw you in with cautious intent, building up the song around you until it swells and fills the room. Post-rock with a substantial feeling. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

MACHINE GUN, self-titled (Mu New York Records, 111 4th Ave. #5A, New York, NY 10003): Improvisational material that's closest to jazz in feel but also has some elements of punk as well as more bizarre things: John RIchey gets credit for vocal cut-ups, apparently generated from random text during the recording process. Sax, drums, synths, and guitars bounce off one another in a constant sequence of reaction, triggered by other musicians or by found sounds and ambient tapes. Occasionally bombastic, often eerie, and a challenging but worthwhile listen. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

MAP OF THE WORLD, "An Inch Equals a THousand Miles" (Atlantic Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): I guess I wasn't the



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only one to enjoy their self-produced records, since Map Of The World are now signed to Atlantic. They're still producing an intelligent and well-textured rock, less rough-edged with the addition of some new musicians to the core team of Khalid and Sophia Hanafi. Should crack the college radio market with no trouble at all. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MARCEL MONROE, "Love Is Not" (Certain Records, 234 5th Ave. #301, New York, NY 10001): Melodic rock with a sharp polish to it and lovely lyrics. Bob Windbiel's voice on the title track reminds me a bit of Jim Carroll without the drugs and the cynicism; "Love is Not" is catchy and upbeat, a fine song and a worthy debut. A three-piece, they have a simple but rich sound, filling in with solid playing rather than flash. I could play this one over and over again; my main regret is that there are only half a dozen songs here. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MAX Q, self-titled (Atlantic Records, 9229 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069): This side project for INXS vocalist Michael Hutchence and Ollie Olsen of No proves that art can flourish in the vacuum of Top 40 radio. Max Q is an amazingly adept fusions of funk, dance, and Kraftwerk-inspired electronics. As with so many major-label releases, Max Q smacks of slick production, but in this case high tech benefits the sound. (T/DW)

★★★★★

JAMES McMURTY, "Too Long in the Wasteland" (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): Roots/folk rock that sounds very much like a few big names—none too surprising as John Mellencamp produced it. But McMurty does have a style of his own, sticking close to the small towns and telling relatively simple stories of men and women trying to cope with life, sometimes unsuccessfully. I don't think anything here is going to storm the world, but "Talkin' at the Texaco" and "Terry" might hang on to become treasured oldies some day. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE MEKONS, "The Mekons Rock'n'Roll" (A&M Records, 595 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): A breathtaking album that left me hungry for more—maybe this one will give this long-lasting (though mutably membered) group some of the recognition they deserve. Classic rock, world beat, fiddle music and exuberant energy combine with wild songwriting and lyrics to produce one damned good time. Hot tracks include "Club Mekon", "Cocaine Lil", and "Echo". (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MERCYNARY, "Plagues of Death" (Angel Fuentes, 650 Kendalia, San Antonio, TX 78221): Heavy metal from a Texas quintet, with crunchy guitars, standard wailing heavy metal vocals, crashing drums and pounding bass. Most of the songs are fast-moving and there are lots of nice arpeggio lead solos scattered throughout. (T/CER)

★★★★★

MESSANO, self-titled (Strategic c/o Relativity, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): Big rock that wanders the territory between Bon Jovi and Foghat, with metal influences, pop polish, anthemic songs, and an overall slightly vapid feeling. There are a few hot tracks here, but they're hot because they pound a refrain and a riff into your head, not because they have a whole lot to say. Poised for airplay. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

EDDIE MICHAELS, demo tape ($3 from Stephen Popkin Productions, 231 E. 29th #113, New York, NY 10016): A pair of dance-oriented pop songs from an aspiring musician who might have a future on the nightclub floor. Both "The Opportunity" and "Hanging By A Thread" deal with relationships, and both have slick production, horns, backing vocals, all the little touches that help them shine. Not real intellectual, mind you, but pretty good nonetheless. (T/MG)

★★★★★

M'LUMBO, "Relaxin' With M'Lumbo" (Maitre'D Records, 70 E. 10th St., New York, NY 10003): Hiding behind a veil of pseudonymity, this seven-piece puts together music with definite African beats and wild horns and tribal percussion—based on modern music. It's not highbrow stuff, either: the theme from Magnificent Seven, "The Flintstones", and "Norwegian Wood" form the basis of three tracks here. It all comes together much better than you could imagine, being both familiar and alien at once, and leading to wild musical dreams. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

M'LUMBO, "Plays for Young Lovers" (Maitre'D Records, 70 E. 10th St., New York, NY 10003): More wild tribal blues music from the mysterious M'Lumbo. AMong the tracks selected for reconstruction here are the Mickey Mouse theme, "In-a-Gadda-Da-Vita", and my favorite, the Alfred Hitchcock theme. This is infectious stuff, designed to draw you in, bounce you around, and leave you hoping for more in the future. Who *are* these guys? (T/MG)

★★★★★

LARRY MONDELLO BAND, "Cassingle" ($3 from PO Box 451, Collinsville, CT 06022): Gritty & refreshing, "Slut", with its incessant drumbeat and detuned bass, brought to mind an Annette Funicello/Frankie Avalon movie gone terribly wrong. WHen Larry sings in "Bug Up My Ass", you can almost feel his discomfort. Sort of reminds me of a classic Rifle Sport EP from a few years back. (T/KG)

★★★★★

CHRISTY MOORE, "Voyage" (Atlantic Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): Contemporary Irish folk/rock music with traditional roots, by one of its leading practitioners. Moore puts out darned good stuff, from spirited love songs (the title cut) to laments for the culture ("Missing You" to allusions to current events. Strong music, strong voice; a winning combination. (T/MG)

★★★★★

OSKAR MORAWETZ, "Vocal WOrks" ($23.98 from Canadian Music Centre, 20 St. Joseph St., TOronto, ONT, M4Y 1J9, CANADA): As the title says, these are vocal works, in a classical mode, accompanied by piano and (on one track) clarinet. Each showcases a single vocalist and a single work—from Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "Sonnets from the Portuguese" to a slightly altered version of Psalm 22. Morawetz makes excellent use of the interaction between vocalist and piano, and the texts all work well in this dramatic setting. The recording quality, of course, is up to the CMC's usual standard. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

JEFFREY MORGAN, "Big Turtle" ($5 from Murray Reams, c/o Sound & Fury, PO Box 10331, Greensboro, NC 27404): Fredi ALberti (cello) and Jeffrey Morgan (Alto sax) seem somewhat like a lesser known version of Tom Cora and John Zorn. Indeed, an album by that duo might sound similar to this. Both have a good command of their instruments and generate good interplay on side one. Daniel Marque on trumpet on side two adds an interesting dimension to Morgan's sax. It might not be what you'd expect to hear on prom night, but for fans of this genre it is an entertainign listen. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

THE MUMBLES, "Conversation" (PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): Straightforward rock that's somewhere between the garage and the bar band level. THe A side opens up with some George Thorogood-like energy on cuts like "Like The SUn" and "Talk To Me". Later, with "All About Myself" and "Enslaved" they seem to draw back a bit, playing music better for late nights when you're ready to just nod off with something mildly crunchy in the background. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE MUSIC SOCIETY, "Probabilities" ($9.95 from 15 Goldberry Sq., Scarborough, ONT, M1C 3H6, CANADA): Ambient electronic musical compositions...only "compositions" is too strong a word. These songs were created by a computer given parameters to work within but allowed some randomness as well. The pieces change subtly as they proceed, each with a recognizable texture that's the creation of the programmer, but unfolding within that constraint to display new ideas and sounds. Definitely listenable. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MYSTERY HEARSAY, "Ear Gear" (Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Synthesized dark music that moves slowly from point to point, stopping only to engage in some harsh electronic processing from time to time. It's a nightmare soundscape, one which can be navigated only with fortitude and difficulty. Doesn't rise to any great heights of violence, but it doesn't sink into boredom either. (T/MG)

★★★★★

STEVE AND KRISTI NEBEL, "Caught in the Balance" ($8 from Penguin Records, 5109 Pt. Fosdick Dr. NW #E155, Gig Harbor, WA 98335): Perhaps I'm jaded from too many flashy bands, but this gentle Northwest folk was just a bit too gentle for me. Too many of the tracks feature slow vocal interplay and understated instrumentation. A high point was "Fat Cat", a more jumpy political song. (T/MG)

★★★★★

NICE STRONG ARM, "Cloud Machine E.P." (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800: A limited-edition blue vinyl numbered slab (unless you're one of us parasites, in which case you get boring black—does that make the black vinyl the rare edition?) of feedback, oildrum percussion, and the other assaultive noises that are Nice Strong Arm. From Austin and now NYC, they continue to crank out intense slices of sound, granitic in their solidity and fury. A welcome preview of where the band is now, as they record their next album. (EP/MG)

* * *

NO EMPATHY, "Freedom of Flash" ($6 from Roadkill Records, PO Box 37, Prospect Heights, IL 60070): For a little bit these guys sound like just another competent hardcore band, but then they break loose and show their wide-ranging talents, from the country-punk title cut to the warped Ziggy Stardust cover to the extended arty romp through "Slaughter in the Monkey's Eyebrow—Comin' Down the Night Train". Very intense music that doesn't let the listener get complacent for a moment, paired with intelligent lyrics with a positive but not sickly sweet message. (LP/MG)

* * *

NOISE PROMOTION COMPANY, "Catalog" (Ano Kato Records/Bebop Music. P.P. Germanou 19, 54622 Salonika, GREECE): Cool swirling rock music from a three-piece. They're doing something like evolved garage music, with the sensibilities of the sixties updated for the eighties. A thread of nihilism runs through their lyrics, with songs like "We Wanna Be Nothing" and "Walking Bomb"; their message is not exactly one of hearts and flowers. But their music packs a strong enough emotional punch to be enjoyable nonehteless. (LP/MG)

* * *

NOISE PROMOTION COMPANY, "Silence" (Ano Kato, Bebop Music, PP Germanou 19, 546 22 Thessaloniki, GREECE): The melodies are rousing; they create an impression of movement and awareness. I call it "jumpy pop rock". The vocals come forth in rough hewn bursts that counter the melody, while the lyrics are gritty, and not at all what the music would seem to indicate they should be. The whole effect is an interesting and listenable one. (LP/CS)

* * *

THE NORM, self-titled (C$8 from Dave McIntyre, 1439 Ru St. Marc #9, Montreal, Que., H3H 2G4, CANADA): THe Norm is Dave's solo project, and this tape is a 3-year old collection of his works. The songwriting is fairly strong, with some nasty things to say about modern civilization. THe music is straightforward rock, handicapped a bit by the flat production necessitated by home recording. Of interest as a preview of the new stuff he intends to release soon. (T/MG)

* * *

NEIL NORMAN & BOBBY SEXTON, "Facing Destiny" (GNP Crescendo Records, 8400 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90069): Highly digital rock (the lead guitar is the only non-keyboard instrument here) that's been processed and osterized down to a sort of polished slickness that, while not precisely unattractive, isn't very palatable either. The songwriting seems to be directed at producing hits rather than communicating. All in all, a pretentious release. (T/MG)

* * *

NUDE SWIRL, self-titled (Maggot Productions, 358 Bordentown Ave., South Amby, NJ 08879): Garageadelia in the vein of the mid-eighties fflood of such bands that through college radio paved the way for folks like REM to break into pop music. Great production, catchy melodies and smooth playing keep things swirling throughout. (T/CER)

* * *

OBLIVION GRIN, "The Prisoner" (Lyle Lyons, 36 South Rd., Mt. Marion, NY 12456): Gothic rock with some quick changes lurking in it, so that it doesn't fall into a groove and stay there. Their lyrics are indirect but definitely eerie, and their music a murk of guitar lines and burned-out vocals. THe band also sent me their latest demo tape, including "The New Age", a look at the times to come that's very different from the usual sweetness and light muck. Idiosyncratic and habit-forming stuff. (T/MG)

* * *

THE OCEAN BLUE, self-titled (Sire Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): Gentle four-piece mellow pop stuff. Occasionally they get in a nice set of lyrics, as on "Vanity Fair", but most of their work fades away into a wash of guitars and sincere vocals. It's not bad, just not gripping. (LP/MG)

* * *

ONCE UPON A TIME, "I'll Take My TIme" b/w "The Fall of Englantine" ($2 from Hit City Records, PO Box 64985, Baton ROuge, LA 70896): Motor CIty flavored rock that does a pretty good job of pumping out some power despite a certain lack of sophistication. There are no hits here, but as a showcase for Tym Grabus and his guitar playing this is OK. (45/MG)

* * *

ONE TRACK MIND, "Ill Eagle Music" (D.V. Kidd, 309 Villa Terr. #A, San Mateo, CA 94401): An offbeat very nifty release that bears exploring. SOngs that seem to consist of wry observations on life and social consciousness are delivered in a low-brow C&W manner that's part laid-back, part detached, part bemused. It's all backed up by electronic music and the whole thing has been lightly brushed with a patina of Pink Floyd (circa "The Wall"), (T/CS)

* * *

THE ONLY ONES, "Live In London" (Skyclad Records, 6 Valley Brook Dr., Middlesex, NJ 08846): The Only Ones are a pretty standard guitar-rock four-piece, with rough edges from the rockabilly swamp. But there's no real punch here, no spark; they never take the music and push it. The result is a rather lackluster album, where the downbeat lyrics ("Why Don't You Kill Yourself" is one song here) don't really seem to mean anything. (LP/MG)

* * *

OWT, "Good as Gold" (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): At first listen, this record is a horrible clashing dissonance. Repeated listens confirm that it's clashing dissonance, but after a while, it's not so bad. WIth Zeena Parkins on electric harp and David Linton on drums, and both on electronics, Owt comes up with a sort of rock jaz that is anything but easy-listening fusion. CHallenging, creative, chaotic and ultimately enjoyable. (LP/MG)

* * *

OYSTER BAND, "Ride" (Polydor, 825 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10019): THis is cool. English folk-dance music that wallows through a range of styles from polka to disco, treating each with respect rather than the bemusement of punks who do the same, and creating a bunch of very listenable tunes in the process. Anchored by melodeon, fiddle and guitars, they go from the driving "New York Girls" to the mellow "This Year, Next Year" in the space of the album, cheerfully scattering musical conventions on the way. A fine example of folk-rock that isn't formulaic at all. (LP/MG)

* * *

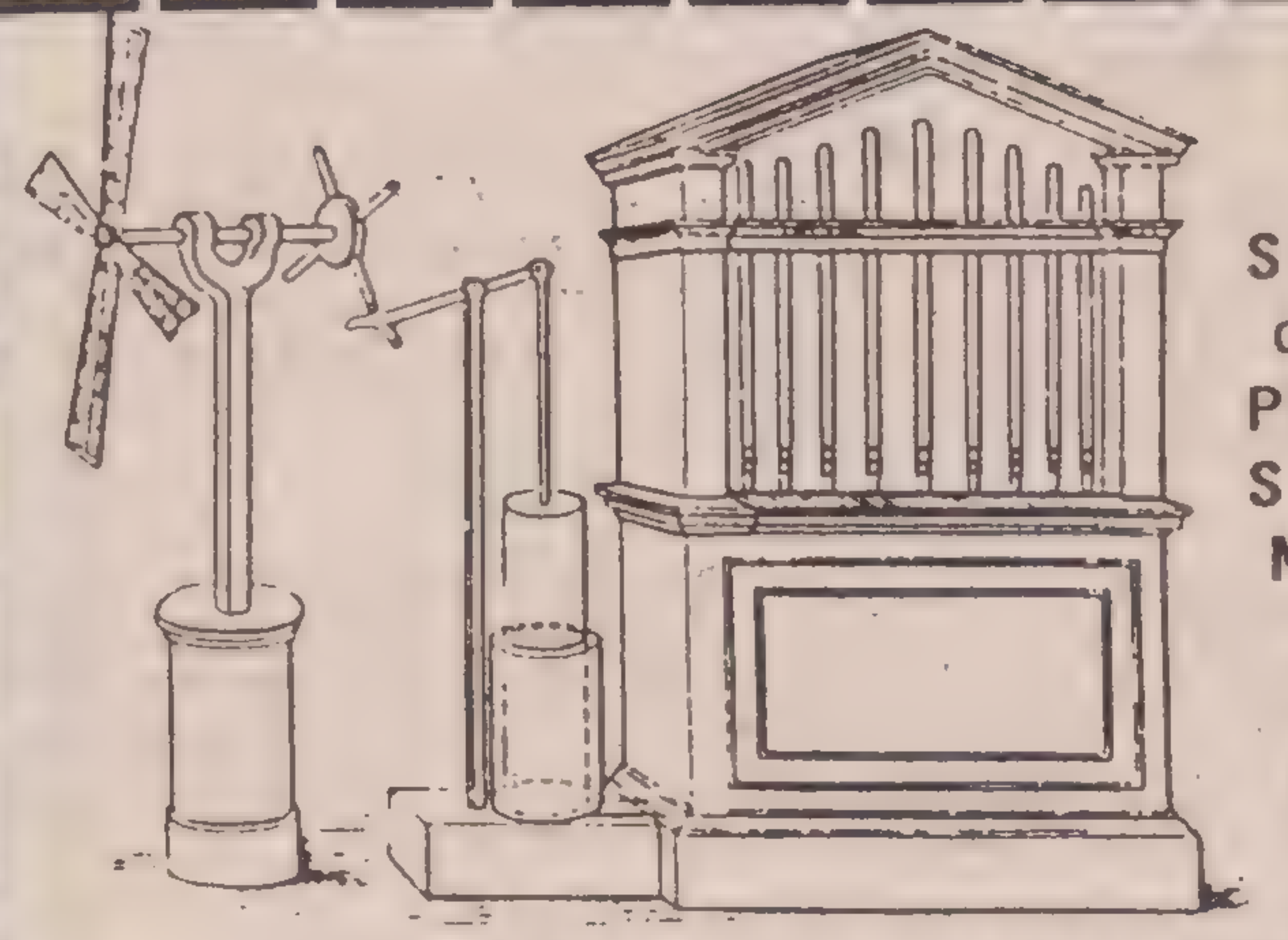
PAJAMA SLAVE DANCERS, "Heavy Pettin' Zoo" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): A very uneven album that shows promise. THese boys are into fast and silly music that borrows bits from hardcore, skate, thrash and who knows where else. On the best tracks, like "Dinosaur Historian Love Chant" or their cover of the Brady Bunch theme, it works well. But there are some clunkers, where Dave Montovani's buzzsaw vocals combine with sloppy playing to produce a few minutes of audio torture. Get it and tape the best tracks so you can skip the rest. (LP/MG)

* * *

PALE SAINTS, "Barging into The Presence of God" (4AD, 611 Broadway #311, New York, NY 10012): No big surprises here—the 4AD label continues to sign high-class bands with a sound that fits their image of English New Wave polish. Pale Saints go for the evocative melodies and the extended jams (especially on "Sight of You", a minor song perhaps puffed up perhaps its potential but fun nonetheless) and craft a good introduction for Anglophiles everywhere. (EP/MG)

* * *

PAVEMENT SAW, "Feed/Symphony" (PO Box 4585, Santa Clara, CA 95054-4585): "Feed" is a random collection of industrial sounds with no apparent rhyme or reason. "Symphony" generates some interesting textures,



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but they are taken nowhere. Has industrial gone the way of punk? Access to technology/instruments is no creation of art in itself. (T/KJ)

* * *

PAVEMENT SAW, "Pleasure Machine" (PO Box 4585, Santa Clara, CA 95054-4585): The j-card in this tape notes that the music was "generated" in April 1989; that seems the right verb indeed. THis is basically noise, on one track very basic, to the point of being mostly rhythmic static, music abstracted down to one of its essential features. Later on bits of synthetic sound appear, but the structures are kept simple and no attempt it made to relate them to popular music. A challenge and an experiment. (T/MG)

* * *

MICHAEL PENN, "March" (RCA, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036-6758): Penn's music is sort of modern pop, quick-changing stuff (with the occasional nod back to a classic 50's sound as on "Evenfall"). His lyrics are the best part here; modern love and confusion, with "Brave New World" a definite winner: "This may not be my best day/but this ain't no golden age..." runs the refrain of this lament. (CD/MG)

* * *

PGR/THESSALONIANS, "The Black Field" (Silent Records, 540 Alabama #315, San Francisco, CA 94110): Sounds to me like a group of artists, musicians and poets wandered into a construction site and have somehow managed to create "art" out of the various odds and ends they've found there. Spare, almost minimal in much of its sound, with a "late night experimental radio" appeal. (EP/CS)

* * *

THE PINK FAIRIES, "Kill 'Em and Eat 'Em" (Skyclad Records, 6 Valley Brook Dr., Middlesex, NJ 08846): What a great release! They remind me of a flower power Motorhead. Combining the hip, acid-groove of the early 60's with the raw unadulterated power of the mid-70's and early 80's metal bands. And it's all done with such apparent good humor that you can't help but want to join in the fun. (LP/CS)

* * *

PLAID RETINA, "Pink Eye" ($6 from Lookout! Records, PO Box 1000, Laytonville, CA 95454): Much more full-bodied than the EP the same guys put out a while back, this one features heavy-hitting punk songs with drums, vocals and guitars all carrying the percussive beat into the listener's body. The songs here are expressions of rage, but with some hope left; they condemn bitterness about the system as well as the system. A real tight sound. (LP/MG)

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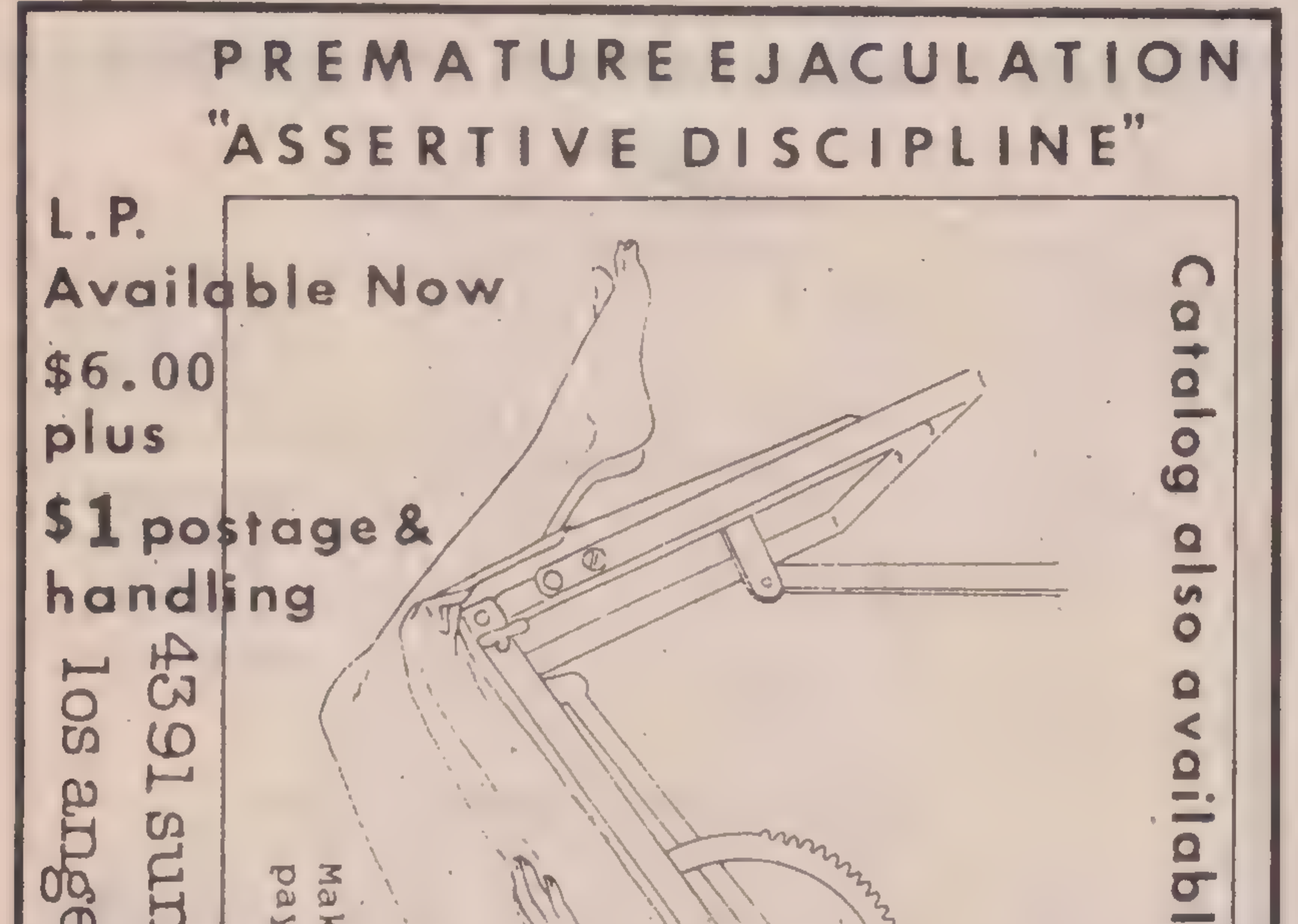
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PLATELET HEAVEN, self-titled (Buxinrut, RD1 Box 49, Frederica, DE 19946): A mostly-solo project from Ken GLanden, who runs this tape label. It's sort of childishly innocent rock, very simple, without too many vocals, but not as insipid as much pop. It frisks around from phrase to phrase, not getting too hung up on song structure or making a deep point, just having fun in its own melodic way. (T/MG)

* * *

PLECID, "Industrial Gems" ($7 from 774 Myra Way, San Francisco, CA 94127): This one is actually somewhere on the boundary between industrial and experimental; while it does have its dose of static and crashing noise, there are also more moody, introspective tracks. Plecid plays with sounds from many sources, found, generated and vocal, and combines them to form the skeleton for new musics. Most of these cuts sound unfinished, as if they were too anxious to move on to the next bit of terrain, leaving shells for someone else to fill. Comes in a handmade cover with enigmatic photocopy art inside. (T/MG)

* * *

P.M. HEAT, self-titled (Englander & Keese, 912 W. MLK Blvd., Austin, TX 78701): A debut four-song album that sotlights a fair amount of talent and a lot of polish. This is dancefloor Texan rock and roll, with a few deliberately hard bits but plenty of attention paid to melody as well. There's enough folks in the band to give it a full sound, and lyrics along the lines of "I Wanna Rock" to make sure it doesn't strain the dancers. (EP/MG)

* * *

POI DOG PONDERING, self-titled (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): A combined re-issue of their two indie EPs, which should give this wild band some much deserved airplay. THeir history is as checkered as their music, with the band having picked up members everywhere between Hawaii and New York in putting together their folky, quirky, up-tempo rock. Accordion, violin, trumpet, whistles, marimba, guitars, mandolin...you name it, it's in here. The result is a stew of styles and influences that bubbles with tasty number like "Fact of Life", a homage to the great chain of being. (LP/MG)

* * *

POOPSHOVEL, "Opus Lengthemus" (Community 3, 438 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211): SOrta sloppy rock with occasional hints of punk and metal. They seem to be having a good time, putting together a gut-level blowout sound that richochets nicely around the room. On top of that they're darned funny, with tracks like "Moshra" and "Young People in Love are Hardly Ever Hungry". Tongue-in-cheek hardcore. (LP/MG)

* * *

POWER ASSAULT, "Thrash or Be THrashed" ($2.50 from Jess Larkin, 34599 Calle Naranja, Capo. beach, CA 92624): A thrash punk demo. The sound is a bit muddy, but then, thrash is often a bit muddy so that's hardly a drawback. The lyrics are appropriately morbid ("EYes of Blood" and "Hijacked to Hell" are tow of the tracks here) and the guitar licks furious enough. But when all's said, it's hard to distinguish this from a lot of other bands. (T/MG)

* * *

PRODUCT NINETEEN, demo tape (Zack Judson, 1907 Ditmas Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11226): Hardcore with a real New York sound, echoing back through the ages to be reminiscent of such greats as the Dictators. These guys have the energy, the demeanor, and the utter disregard for such trivial musical conventions as melody and harmony to warm any punk's heart. The art of feedback is not lost. (T/MG)

* * *

PROOF OF UTAH, "Out of Order" ($8 from Smiley Turtle Records, PO Box 840, Champaign, IL 61824-0840): Reviewers use words like "quirky" and "idiosyncratic" to describe the bastardized pop of Proof of Utah—what they really mean is that they don't understand it, because the band refuses to play the usual gentle melodies. The sax and harmonica parts in particular seem designed to drive listeners away. On most songs, their eclectic approach doesn't work for me, but on a few—"I'll Make You Feel Good", "Telephone Blues"—they sound spectacular. (LP/MG)

* * *

PUBLIC HUMILIATION, self-titled ($3 from Goon Records & Tapes, PO Box 5892, Orange, CA 92613-5892): Noisy garage rock from folks who don't seem to care a whole lot what their instruments sound like. This is sloppy, grungy stuff that gets to be quite a torment after only a few tracks. In addition, they swipe at least one song ("Nina Blackwood Hookup") without crediting it, which makes me unsure how many of these other punk gems they actually wrote themselves. (T/MG)

* * *

PURDINS, self-titled ($2.50 from Tumult, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): Psychedelic electric fuzzy rock that would have benefited from better production but is enjoyable even in the low-budget production. I especially like their songwriting: "What happened to the good ole days/when I didn't have to think?" they ask in the lead song, "Dazzling Bag of Paint Chips". Good things are still coming from Seattle, where this band makes its home. (T/MG)

* * *

THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS, "Book of Days" (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): The Furs' sound is not so much psychedelic as it is hard pop; droning vocals and a constantly hopping guitar line that doesn't seem to worry too much about what the rest of the band are up to are the trademarks here. They balance somewhere between annoying and pretty, slipping close to formula, passionless playing but still rising above on some cuts (like "Should God FOrget"). (LP/MG)

★★★★★

QUANTUM FOAM, "The Big O" (Sasquatch, PO Box 126, Milford, ME 04461): Somewhat SubGenoid synthesizer patterns that range from dentist-drill annoyance repetition to decent pop, with the tedious portions kept to a minimum. Bits of questionable humor are interspersed in a high-school hall announcement style: "The AIDS patient dating service, for those with nothing to lose" is one of them. Not exceptionally thrilling but competent and catchy. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DAVID R., "Two Over" (1021 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131): A two-song promo tape for a forthcoming full-length cassette. David is a one-man-show pop band with some range, though he stays around the mellow end of the spectrum. "Jack is Off" is a strange song about a denizen at the Bates Hotel, while "Big Wind" is more wistful, easy, and nicely mixed. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RADIO VOID #9 ($6 from PO Box 5983, Providence, RI 02903): Few zines can successfully make the transition to tape, but this litmag has done it. In a mix of poetry, prose, playlets and music, they display the same wide-ranging creativity that makes their print issues fun. Check out the song "Womens' Prison Movies Obligatory Shower Scenes" and its compliments to late night TV, or the strangely looping drama piece "Degraded, Like Me—an excerpt from a play which does not exist". There's lots more here too, 90 minutes in all. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MURRRAY REAMS, "Soap Opera" ($5 from SOund and Fury c/o M. Reams, PO Box 10331, Greensboro, NC 27404): Proof positive that music truly is in the ear of the beholder. Noise, noise, noise, electronic sounds, sounds of nature, drips of this and drabbles of that. It didn't appeal to me, but one man's symphony is another man's cacophony. Comes with its own bar of soap. (T/CS)

★★★★★

REBEL POETS, "Worlds Made Flesh" (Revolutionary Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): 75 minutes of socially-conscious poetry (plus occasional smile breaks, like "Pastaman") with wild tribal jamming behind it. Topics range from homelessness to South Africa to the need for revolution to the lousy conditions for minorities in this country. Inspiring and uplifting as well as a call for action. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE RECKONING, "Immoral Majority" (208 Elm St., Elmira, NY 14901): A three-piece group that leans towards power metal, although some of their songs have a more contemplative rock-epic sort of lead in. There's a lot of religion-related music on this tape, including the title cut and "Original Sin". Not bad for a self-produced demo. (T/MG)

★★★★★

REYNOLD, "Apple Pie" ($6 from Reynold/Rephi, 8605 Windward Cir., Eden Prairie, MN 55344): Light pop with some tracks tending towards a sort of jazzy fusion. Reynold's got a sardonic take on things, best seen in his "Christmas Letter" track, a nice parody of the end of the year ritual of keeping in touch. Catchy narratives and clever tunes combine to make this an enjoyable 4-song release. (T/MG)

★★★★★

PAWNEE RIBBER, "Cacaphony" (PO Box 255, Monticello, NY 12701): Imagine all the sounds ever recorded. Now imagine a chunk of them coming to rest on one rapid-paced tape. OK, this is it. RIbber takes material from talk shows, old movies, outdated songs (including some really amazing rightwing folk music), advertisements and who knows what else and puts it together into a sort of media stew. Funny stuff initself, and more amusing by the juxtapositions introduced. (T/MG)

★★★★★

KEN RUBENSTEIN, "The CHoreographed Stability of American Hardware" (45 Bellmont Ave. #B4, Garfield, NJ 07026): Composed for the Richard Biles Dance Co., I can't imagine trying to anybody trying to perform to this soundtrack as the sometimes disjointed music suits the title just fine. Rubenstein's music flows rather well at times as his keyboards ebb with a pulsating beat. Must have made for an interesting night out. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

THE RUDY SCHWARTZ PROJECT, "Bowling For Appliances" (Joe Newman, 5404 Ave. F, Austin, TX 78751): Joe (who is pretty much a one-man band, with a few friends adding guitar and vocals on selected tracks) is a musical chameleon. He moves easily from crooning to punk, and along the way he makes fun of all sorts of things. "Lynyrd Skynyrd Memorial Tractor Pull", for example, punctures the bubble of bloated rock; "Ben" is an ode to a rat; while "Protect And Serve" goes after the cops. Not for the easily offended or highly religious, but full of laughs for most others. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SACRIFICE CHOIR (S.M.T. Productions, 3447 18th St. No.3, San Francisco, CA 94110): Well-produced music, great, expressive female vocals about fairly tough characters, a hooker, resident of hell and a sex junkie. The music is a cross of hard rock and punk and well-played throughout. (T/CER)

★★★★★

LAWRENCE SALVATORE, "I Say His Flies Are Ersatz" (Kitti Tapes, 312 N. 3rd Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904): This is solo originals from Lawrence, sort of poppy, unpolished but very promising. Maybe I was just sucked in by the lyrics on "Blow One Up For Me Baby" (a sort of anarchist love song), but I enjoyed the bouncy instrumentals and other cuts here as well. Comes with a hand-colored label and j-card. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JOE SATRIANI, "Big Bad Moon" and "Flying in a Blue Dream" (Relativity, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): "Big Bad Moon" is a promo CD single from the album, and a nice introduction to the whole thing. Joe, who has hands that make a guitar a deadly but pleasurable weapon, produces a full-bodied rock, a bit reminiscent of The Band but harder and crisper around the edges. Amazingly enough, he does all the guitars, bass, harmonica, keyboard and vocal tracks himself, leaving only the percussion to Jeff Campitelli and the sitar to John Cuniberti. Pretty impressive way to spend an hour. (CDS & LP/MG)

★★★★★

ANDREW SAVAGE, "The Lamb" (81 Castlerigg Dr., Burnley, Lancs., UK): A new cassette single from the smoldering remains of the Cucumber Sandwiches. "The Lamb" is his deranged attempt at a Christmas song; the reverse has two tracks including "Why I Like Sheep". THe music is insipid pop of the type produced by those wonderful Casio keyboards and the delivery tends towards the wooden. It's a wonder what some people put out. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SAVAGE REPUBLIC, "I Married THurston" (Screaming Intelligentsia Records, 3025 Plaza Blvd., National CIty, CA 92050): Hot live pounding, well, savage rock from Bruce Licher and company. THe A side came from the final Gilman Street show, the B from Pyramid Club in NYC and a few other places. Heavy rolling thunderous tracks ricochet off the walls and lodge in your brain. "Jamahiriya", "So It Is Written" and "Tabula Rasa" seem to resonate to some sort of modern steel and glory mythos. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SCARLET DROPS, "Poor FLowers" b/w "You Know My Name" & "Let Me Feel" (PO Box 15983, Merivale Depot, Nepean, ONT, K2C 3S8, CANADA): A three-piece (plus a guest guitarist) psychedelic-sounding garage band without too much punch. THe difficulty may be in the mix; I suspect some of the fuzziness that I heard was not intentional (if it *was* all intentional, then it was Too Much). Sounds sincere, but that's not good enough. (45/MG)

★★★★★

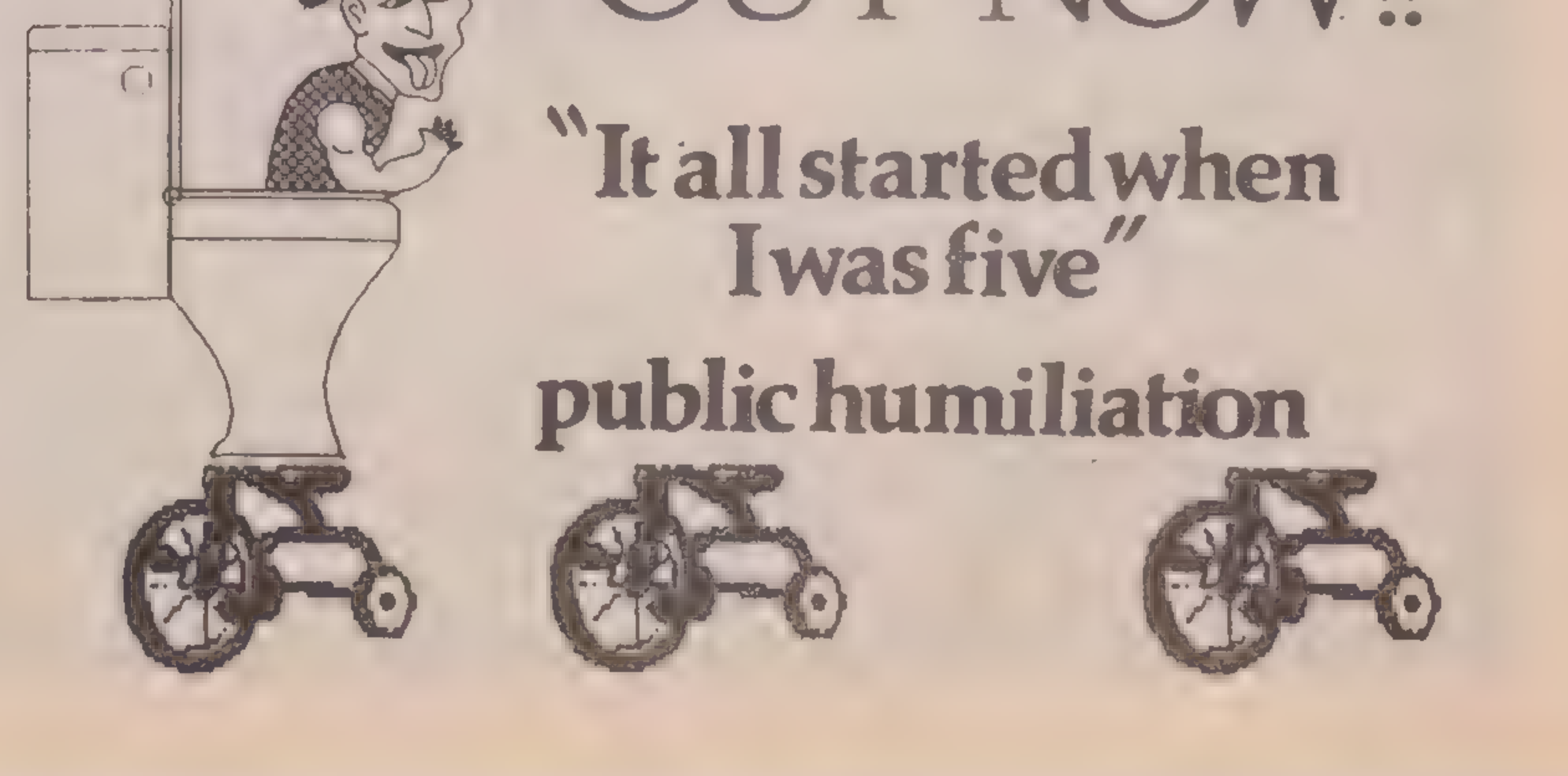
SECOND CHANCE, "First" ($3 from Pig-Dog Records, PO Box 3603, Lawrence, KS 66046): Pretty straightforward punk, a bit heavy on the guitars and with tighter playing than is often displayed by new bands. It's nice to see them doing a disarmament song, as well as one plugging freedom in general ("Puppet"). I doubt this will get played at antiwar rallies but perhaps it can help form some common ground between parts of the progressive community. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

SEX CLARK FIVE, "Battle Of" (Blood Money, PO Box 30084, Philadelphia, PA 19103): These guys are still playing their quick-change "strum & drum" bizarre brand of pop. The problem with a SC5 song is not so much carrying the tune as catching it: by the time you figure out what groove the band's in, they've moved on to something else. Some of this has a big ballady sound, other parts are jittery and fragmented. Never boring, though sometimes rather jagged to enjoy. Their taste is pretty strange, too, as in "The Wehrmacht's Lament": "We Could have won/But it was cold". Guess it comes of living near all those rocket scientists in Huntsville. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

PAUL SHAFFER, "Gold COast" (Capitol, 1750 N. Vine St., Hollywood, CA 90028-5274): Despite a high veneer of show-biz gloss, "Coast to Coast" grooves with a wicked sense of fun and a baaad rhythmic vibe. It's a concept album of sorts, with Shaffer and numerous musical personalities trekking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across the country and back to puck up the musical influences (read: different kinds of funk) in different cities. He's joined by such luminaries as George Clinton, Valerie Simpson, Koko Taylor, K.C., Allen Toussaint, and the Fresh Prince. THink of this as one big musical party in which you've managed to slide in through the back door. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

SHELLEYAN ORPHAN, "Century Flower" (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): THis is real mellow rock, or at least it's got sort of rock rhythms and lyrics, but the most obvious part of the music is the classical string instruments. These are combined with electric guitar and vocal harmonies to make a very sincere sound, an exploration of what can be done with a little care and love. THe lyrics tend to be wistful, simple, almost nonessential to the sea of music thus created. Relaxing. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SHOOTING STAR, "Touch Me Tonight: The Best of Shooting Star" (Enigma, PO Box 3628, CUlver City, CA 90231-3628): This sounds like early-80's arena rock—because that's precisely what it is. Shooting Star enjoyed some success before they broke up in 1985, and now they're back together again. THis tape includes a lot of classics, plus the title track, which is new, with a big and slick sound reminiscent of Kansas or Boston. Sure to get airplay. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE SICILIAN VESPERS, "Hee Haw" (Profile Records, 740 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): A twelve-inch single with two mixes of the title song plus a second cut, "I Need A Clone". THe music is boisterous, but after a while having the same lyrics repeated over and over in a high-pitched cartoon character sampled voice while a machine-perfect dance beat is shoved down your throat gets a little old. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

KEN SIEGERT, demo tape (PO Box 578, Cambridge, MA 02140): Bouncy pop music, heavy on the keyboards, with an intricate structure which seems the antithesis of a lot of modern radio garbage. I'm reminded instead of dance hall music, or some of the Beatles' lighter numbers, or other pop which maintains a brightness and verve without sounding stupid. I'd like to hear more from Ken. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SILKWORM, "Girl Harbrr" (412 E. Spruce #2, Missoula, MT 59802): Dark and moody three-piece rock from Montana, a land without many FF subscribers. Other critics have been quick to find influences here, and indeed they do have the sound of some of the big names in indie music. But they add their own brand of mania to the slow-paced music and tortured vocals, and it's obvious they're not just Mission of Burma or Nice Strong Arm copycats. An eerie experience. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SINISTER REACTION, "Private Wars" ($6 from Mr. Sandy Kane, PO Box 85, Landenberg, PA 19350): Gloomy technomusic with an assaultive ambience about it. The music here relies on slow-paced rhythms, growly vocals, and various synthetic noises mixed with everyday samples to achieve an effect of profound unease. Not so much songs as performances, the five pieces here are enough to turn the brightest day black and scary. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

SIX FEET UNDER, "Spaghetti Face" (Anthrax Records, 25 Perry Ave., Norwalk, CT 06850): Ska-based pop reminiscent of classic Madness. They do have some range, though, getting off into dirges or rock from time to time. Still, it does center around nutty songs ("Zarkon: King of the Mutant Fly People" is my favorite) and mellow horn-playing, so the comparison is inescapable. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SMOKIN' DAVE AND THE PREMO DOPES, "Too Many Years in the Circus..."(Stegosaurus Records, PO Box 8190, Knoxville, TN 37996-4800): Rock music flavored with a small dose of Southern influence and a large chunk of wild humor. "John Cougar Visits the Real World" and "The Last Elvis Song" (in which the King begs us to finally let him alone) set the tone for this record, a 13-song romp over the heads of musical icons. THere's some political satire as well, and a manic intensity to their playing. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SMOLDERING REMAINS, "I Stepped Off the Curb and Got Hit By A Bus" (2923 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61604): I like to call this sort of stuff "funcore", this band has some things to say, and are confident enough to use humor and fun instrumentation to do it. "Fat Albert" is funny even if you haven't read the lyric sheet (included) yet, with a bouncy bass line "hey hey hey" here and there. The music is a great core sound—definitely a tape to make sure you've got a copy of, and the liner notes say they're cheap, so I hope I might get to see them live some time. (T/CER)

★★★★★

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SNAKE NATION, self-titled (Caroline Records, 114 W. 26th St., New York, NY 10001): Well, this group consists of two folks from Corrosion of COnformity plus punk rock comics artist Brian Walsby. But that all-star lineage doesn't change the fact that it's basically bloated guitar rock, with a few hardcore riffs but mostly a lot of aimless wandering about. It pretty much sounds like the band knows it's not going to tour and so doesn't really care what ends up on vinyl; there's no sense of energy here. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SOCKEYE, "Your Mother Downey, Jr." ($2 from Dave, PO Box 2413, Stow, OH 44224): Grungy, horrid, but mind you, humorous, noise from this heartlands trio. Fun lyrics about people we all have to deal with, as in "Don't Fuck With Foghat" and "Slam Dunk Your Ass". Sockeye wax philosophical on "These Are The THings I Am", and do some no-nonsense aggressive self-promotion on "Sockeye Your Tune". (T/CER)

★★★★★

SOFA HEAD, "1127 Walnut Ave." ($8 from Profane Existence Records, PO Box 8722, Minneapolis, MN 55408): This debut LP apparently had a previous release in England but this is the first time it's been available over here. Sofa Head are a terribly sincere four-piece that play a sort of loud, fast, sloppy, treble-rich punk music, with Claire and Wal trading off vocals in a way that's sometime reminiscent of rap. They're almost painfully worried about the world, with lyrics that address everything from roughness in the pit to acid rain. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SONIC DISRUPTION, "Full Metal Basket" (South East Records, PO Box 3031, Iowa City, IA 52274): THis is the kind of band I usually expect to find on SST. Very creative use of heavy punky rock music with a grunge and a groove. I just wish there were more than just this little release. (EP/CS)

★★★★★

SOUL BROTHERS, "Three Hour Tour" (Scheming Intelligentsia Records, 3025 Plaza Blvd., National City, CA 92050): Like a sponge, Soul Brothers have absorbed all there is to be had in electronic music and hip pop culture. Once it's all assimilated they squeeze out a consistent stream of quirky rhythm music much like a cross between Pop Will Eat Itself and Wire. There's something happening around every corner, which keeps the listener on his/her toes. (T/CS)

★★★★★

SOUNDGARDEN, "Louder Than Love" (A&M Records, 595 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): After five years with Sub Pop and SST, Soundgarden have their first major label album out (which has been promptly slapped with an "Explicit Lyrics Parental Advisory" sticker). I don't know why they bothered to warn parents; you can't hear 80% of the lyrics over the blasting guitars—not that it matters. This is music to crank up loud and groove on, head between the speakers, while your neighbors call the cops and your dogs howl. An energizing experience of psychedelic power rock. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SOUND OF MY OWN VOICE, self-titled (500 Greenwood Pl., Syracuse, NY 13210): I guess you might call this pop grunge. They're not an especially tight band, but they seem to be having a heck of a good time, moving from dark sonic noise numbers to lighter, guitar-bashing rockers. Overall more energy than musicianship here, but that never stopped a lot of other successful bands. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SPECIAL ED, "When it Rains it Foams" (Cubist Productions, 3408 Juliet St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213): Perhaps the best word for this band is "inconsistent". They play everything from thrash punk to bitched-up seventies covers ("Stayin' Alive") to death-rocker dirges. Lots of silly humor runs through here—songs like "Mr. Snail" and "Eatin Moldy Vitamin" are rampant. But it's hard to get too focused on the record when it keeps skidding across the musical map. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

"Spiritual Classics Audio Cassette Sampler" ($1.50 from Audio Literature, 325 Corey Way #112, South San Fancisco, CA 94080-6706): Tantalizing snippets of great philosophical and spiritual works, read by folks like Peter Coyote, Ellen Burstyn, and even John Cleese, They range from Rumi to Buddha to CS Lewis, and make for excellent driving companions; who can stay mad at other drivers with this on? And it even turned me on to a neat work I didn't know about before (Arkin's "The Lemming Condition"). A good sampler of their wares, which comes with a catalog so you can order the full tapes. (T/MG) **SPIT**, "You Would if You Loved Me" ($8 from NTS, 742 Paper Mill Rd., Newark, DE 19711): Raucous guitar-based rock that deserves its "X-rated lyrics" warning sticker. This guy SPit seems to fancy himself a sort of white rapper, and he turns out some pretty hilarious stuff. I was especially impressed by "Boss", a portrayal of the rotten side of work, though "Road Pizza" is right up (or down) there too. Not for your little brother, but you might like it yourself. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SQUIDBELLY PHLEGHMFOOT AND THE PLUG UGLIES, "Mass Murder 101" (Private Studios, PO Box 531, Wyandotte, MI 48192): A batch of music about various unsavory people, plus a bonus track ("Big Iron Door") written by CHarles Manson. The strongest cut here is "Albert Fish", the tale of the famous cannibal set to a bizarrely altered calliope beat, that hangs almost palpably in the air to haunt you for hours after a few plays. Compelling sickness, with a few satirical PSA's thrown in for good measure. (T/MG)

★★★★★

STAR STAR, "Go Go Girls In Love" (Dragster Records, 163 Amsterdam Ave. #214, New York, NY 10023): Is there such a thing as bubblegum punk? If so, this is it. These guys seem to be aiming their music at the stage, in fact a stage surrounded by young girls (not women—the sexism level here is pretty high). Flashy and metallic in some spots, undeniably energetic in others, but an empty experience when it comes time to add it all up. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RUSS STEDMAN, "Translation Snakes" ($3 from 311 1/2 N. Main #301, Mitchell, SD 57301): This one-man band seems to have a split personality. Russ starts out with some gentle, mellow, slow-moving sonic explorations. But by the end of the second side he's producing rock blowouts (with a detour by way of a swamp full of ten thousand frogs) that take your breath away. Living in South Dakota must give him plenty of time to think of new things to record. (T/MG)

★★★★★

STRAFE FUR REBELLION, "Vogel" ($20 *CASH* from Touch, 13 Osward Road, London SW17 7SS, UK; 2 IRCs for catalog): 15 tracks of audio collage from this German group. They use all manner of things in creating their compositions: geese, people's voices, wind chimes, Stuka dive-bombers (I presume recorded, though they don't say), fighting cats, water, choirs, pianos dragged across the floor...and that's just a few of the dozens of sound sources listed here. The result is eerie, disturbing, brutal in spots and beautiful in others. A sincere attempt to extend the boundaries of music to encompass the whole audio world. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

STRAW DOGS, "Man In The High Tower" b/w "Do or Die" (Gawdawful Records, PO Box 1331, Cambridge, MA 02238): There are still some bands putting out good old-fashioned hard-edged rock and roll, not this modern punk and metal and hardcore stuff. Straw Dogs is one of them. The two cuts here do a lot to display the guitar skills of this five piece, as well as Steve Grimes "We may be screwed but you're gonna get screwed to" defiant songwriting. (45/MG)

★★★★★

STRIPMINERS, "Divorce Yourself" (Community 3, 438 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211): Psyche-abrading music, dark and sloppy, depending heavily on minor key guitar interlacings and growl/shouted vocals. Some of the same dark and gloomy feeling as the Honeymoon Killers, but with an even rawer edge.(LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE SUBDUDES, self-titled (Atlantic Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): Generally amiable rhythmic pop that sounds like the Hooters crossed with Stevie Wynwood by way of New Orleans. Though they need to develop a stronger sense of their sound and a more deft use of the down-home southern rock blues rhythms (everything is a little too pat, a little too slick), there is something there that makes you wish they'd really let down their hair and *swing* like you sense they can. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

SYNESTHESIA, self-titled (175 Margaret Rd., Amherst, NY 14226): Mellow folky rock sort of reminiscent of the Grateful Dead in their less manic moods. While there are a few low points (is the title "Cocaine Hookers" completely gratuitous?), there are plenty of high ones, from fusion-soaked instrumentals to "Cardboard City", an eerie and touching song about homelessness. THe 20-minute "Finalize the Call" gets a bit tedious in its wandering, but with a bit of discipline, these guys could go far. (T/MG)

★★★★★

TEENAGE DEPRESSION, "Skank or Die" ($3 from David Ross, 350A Lafayette Rd. #3C, Metuchen, NJ 08840): Made about five years ago, this is hardcore sound and pace (9 songs on one 7") with some rather silly lyrics—see, for example, the SubGenoid "False Jesii, Part 1". Other hits include "Anarchy

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is for Assholes" and "Reagan's Gestapo". Pretty much a parody of the punk stereotype. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

tentatively, a convenience, "November 21 '87EV to April 16 '89EV" (Widemouth Tapes, PO Box 382 CR, Baltimore, MD 21203; catalog for SASE): This will be more accessible than most of tent's stuff to many of you, consisting mainly of noise/jazz/industrial/whatever improvisational music. Recorded in a wide variety of settings and with a galaxy of participants, nevertheless the sheer primal chaotic energy that characterizes many of tent's works comes through quite clearly. At times almost soothing in its manic approach to killing music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE TINKLERS, "Casserole" (Shimmy-Disc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10116): This music is almost a joke, played on homemade percussion and rubber band instrumentation, with most of the tune carried by the voices of Charles Brohawn and CHris Mason. But the songs...well, they do neat things about life and the world and what's wrong with it, mostly short and to the point, with a few hopeful bits (like "Simple Song of Simple Faith") thrown in to keep it from getting too depressing. Their ode "Norman Meyer" is a fitting remembrance for a somewhat unique anti-nuke activist. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TOAD THE WET SPROCKET, "Bread and Circus" (Columbia Records, 51 W. 52nd St., New York, NY 10019): Rich and mellow pop/rock from the central coast of California. This is a band into substance rather than flash, although they are certainly capable of weaving gripping melodies. THe songwriting is sort of misty, looking at some of the lousy parts of the world but still coming up with a shred or two of hope. Relaxing and pleasant. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TORN MEMORY, "The Immigration in Time" ($ITORN MEMORY(Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): This one is more mainstream than many of the aT releases, being mostly gothic rock with a heavy keyboard component, lots of slow fades and eerie sounds. The lead track of the B side, "A windows view", is something like GOthic/New Age fusion, a combination sure to confuse many listeners, but I thought it was a nice effect. It's nice to have this available. (T/MG)

★★★★★

TOXIC PASTA, "Just Like Mama Used To Make"($4 from Duncan Dunscombe, Bennington College, Bennington, VT 05201): A collection of mostly-original pop with some charm to it, though a bit rough around the edges. Some of the tracks here remind me a bit of the Monkees and even (if I'm not careful) the Partridge Family; there's a certain tongue in cheek feel to them. Cheerfully twisted. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

TRIPTIC OF A PASTEL FERN, "Despite Transcience" (2400 Commonwealth, Alexandria, VA 22301): Side one had a misty, melancholy ambience to it that disguised much of the repetitiveness. But by side two I had had enough. The rhythmic beat was merciless and became almost tortuous as the tape wound to an end. (T/CS)

★★★★★

THE TROUBLE WITH LARRY "No Man's Land" ($3.50 from Good Kitty Records and Tapes, 201-A N. Davis Ave., Richmond, VA 23220): Fun, fuzzy punk music with thoughtful, funny lyrics and and exellent vocals. Well played garage-sound with an upbeat, jumpy feel. (T/CER)

★★★★★

TRUE RUMOR, "Knee Deep in Circumstance" (PO Box 2783, Church St. Stn., New York, NY 10008-2783): A CD-only release that showcases this band's mix of rootsish rock and social conscience. They can rock out, but they can also get serious, as on "Open Your Eyes", an indictment of the whole silly-assed system. These guys have been doing well on the NY/NJ club scene and it's pretty obvious why; their music makes you want to get up and dance. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

TWO GUYS (WITH BIG DICKS), "Two Guys (With Big Dicks) And a Baby" ($3 from Johnson, PO Box 811, Tawas City, MI 48764): Painfully ugly garage rock from a couple of guys who find singing about genitals to be the height of art. Actually, "singing" is far too strong a word; even "screaming" is charitable. Unique, and will probably remain so. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Beyond the Valley of the Granola Fields" (Small Tools Tradition, PO Box 8005, Suite 239, Boulder, CO 80306-8005): This one bills itself as "The Music of Boulder Colorado"—which makes me wonder just what's in the water there. Crazy electronic rock, screaming fits, obscure experimentalism and a sort of creeping industrial sound characterize much of the work on this tape. Jim Barfart's "Blessed Granola" is a groupthink rant; Little Fyodor contributes some cracked poetry; the Iceplants do whatever it is that they normally do. Also tracks by Naram Sin, Miracle, Black Cabbage and others. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Charlie Manson Street" (M.D. Records, 737 33rd Ave., Seattle, WA 98122): A collection of four nasty bands from Texas. There are similarities here to the NY scum rock scene—lack of concern for music, shock lyrics—but there's even less of a traditional hardcore sound. The most aggressive group here is Queen Penis, whose cut "Degenerate" is liable to offend many politically correct folks. Ed Hall also turns in a credible amount of noise, and The IV League and Squat THrust mix in a bit of performance art. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Creme de la Scheme" (Scheming Intelligentsia Records, 3025 Plaza Blvd., National City, CA 92050): This is the first, but hopefully not the sole, compilation from Scheming Intelligentsia. Miniature's post-punk mingles with Thyroid Mom's industrial beatings, Outstanding cuts include Irene Liberatore's spoken version of "We can Work it Out/Gomorrah", which has a lovely near-hysteria quality to it. A stellar guide to the San Diego/Los Angeles underground scene. (T/DW)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Dog Plasma" (Bonehead Records, 630 Stoddard, East Lansing, MI 48823): A 7" compilation of some current faces around the Lansing scene—although if this is really what you're likely to hear at a party there, I'll take Detroit. Not that the music is bad, but it's mostly aggressive, loud, and played by people who seem to think their instruments are designed to kill small animals. Contributors include Just Say No, SNake River, and Gone Dog. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Don't Give to Beggars" ($4 from Mosh Frog Productions, P.O. Box 461, Bellflower, CA 90706): This is a compilation tape of mostly hardcore bands of varius talents and recording quality. The tape is long and the selection quite diverse, with all manner of attitudes ranging from angry to political to funny The tape comes with a booklet with some graphics and the song lyrics. (T/CER)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Everybody's Famous Series Sampler #1" (Baby Faze Records & Tapes, PO Box 4264, San Francisco, CA 94101): A compilation with no promo material and no thematic unity, but a few good cuts. These include a decent though overlong track from Youth in Asia, an edited Big City Orchestra tune, and World Entertainment War's techno-pop "Televisionary". Mostly unknowns, and mostly destined to stay that way. (T/MG)

★★★★★

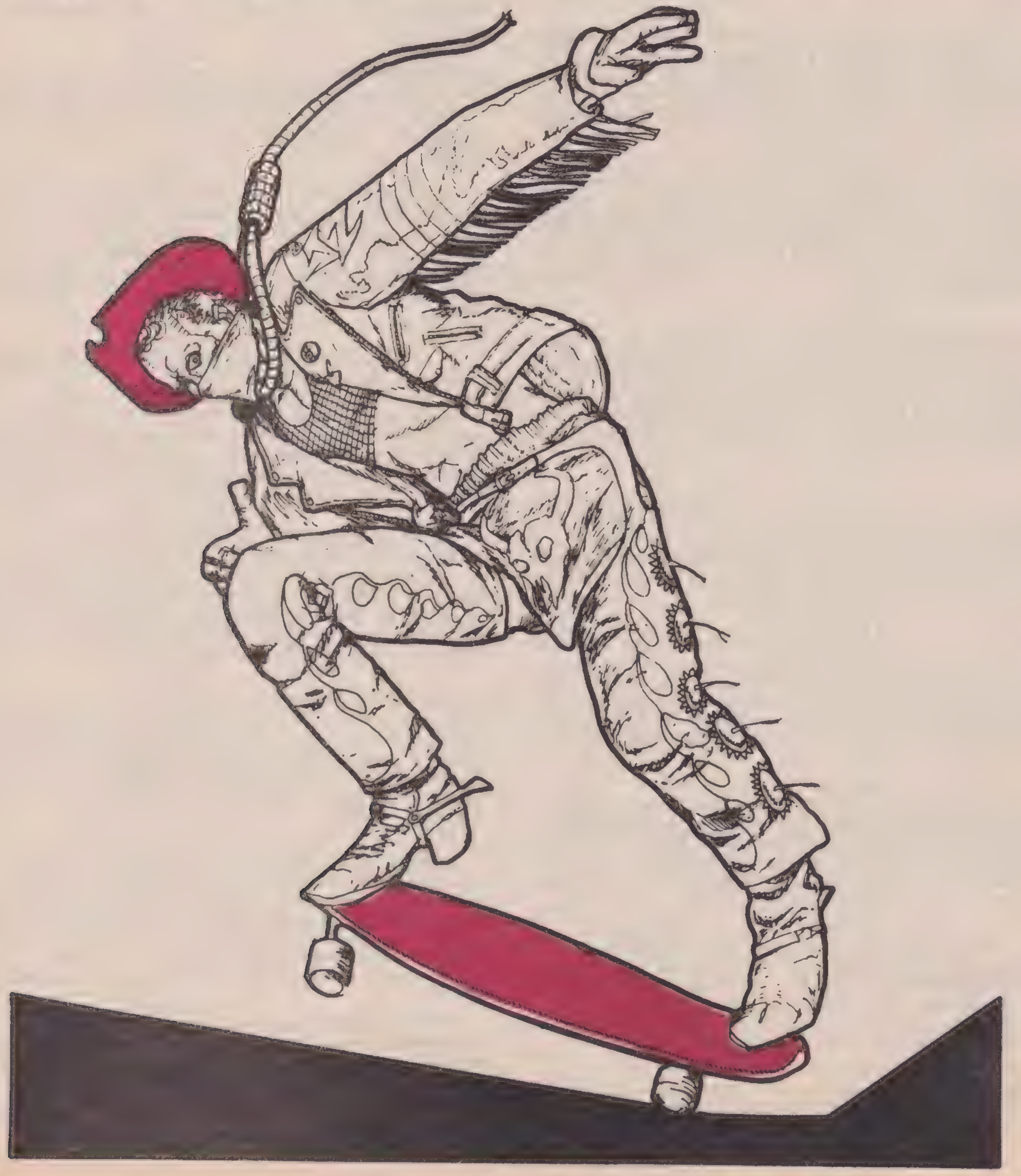
Various Artists, "Footprints of God Part II" ($3 from Tulpa, PO Box 860, WIllimantic, CT 06226): A four band compilation release. Sone one is hollow, fuzzy, grungy hardcore, brief and to the point. Song two is like a marching band parade of the damned. Song three is a jangly pop rock song with hazy nasal vocals that's part 60's part 80's. And song four is an offbeat, plaintive sort of enjoyable pop ditty. (EP/CS)

MAVERICK

by Misha

illustration by Joey Zone

Jack Rock is a posable doll. He doesn't know nothing about slamming freestyle on a long board. Neighborhood nightmare. Thrashes a toy poodle in a ollie to handrail. What a pogo. His killer grinds leave metal filings, blood, sweat and scabs. What a fakie. Somebody ought to lynch that boy. Zipping around on a halfpipe like a beetle on a hot plate. Giving the old man a migrained with the shu-bip shu-bip of wheels on concrete. Shattering sparks along the curb. Perpetual motion going nowhere. Got nowhere to go son? Launch that shiny shiny bumper, and take a dive. Pool's empty Jack. Pickin his nose? Huck that boy. I give him a 50-50 chance. He's passing me on the off ramp. On the off chance that he might get somewhere. All that traveling. All that vertical, all the planting and spinning and method of madness. We don't want your kind here. In Dog Eat Town. He's got too much happy time. Too much energy. Who taught this dynamo to Just Say No?



★★★★★

Various Artists, "Head Full of Acid" (Ugly American Tapes, c/o Greg CHapman, PO Box 8433, Red Bank, NJ 07701): A three-song tape compilation. THe opening cut by Suckdog displays some glimmer of interest, but it gets lost in their usual slapdash playing, while Peach of Immortality's contribution is completely unmemorable. Monster Magnet's "Tab", though, makes up for this with an epic-length jam, guitars that grind your mind to dust, and a refusal to stop short of total meltdown. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Live at the Knitting Factory, Volume 2" (A&M, 595 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): A set of performances captured at the Knitting Factory, a sort of avant-garde New York City club. They tend to be largely improvisational musings, with few if any vocals. It's interesting in spots, though largely pretty tame, and it seems somewhat self-conscious as well—as if these artists knew they were supposed to be breaking new ground, and do so, whether they have any spirit for it or not. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Meridians 2" ($10 *CASH* from Touch, 13 Osward Road, London, SW17 7SS, UK): A collection of mostly-instrumental pieces with a truly worldwide sound. They range from chants to a version of the Star Spangled Banner on automobile horns, from jazzy to ambient, peaceful to perky. As with all the Touch products, the quality is excellent and the packaging fascinating. This one comes in a transparent envelope with a number of colorful cards, with news stories, photographs, drawings, short stories and more on them—almost a Tarot for the modern musician. About the only thing I can compare it (for looks) with domestically are some of the Savage Republic works. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Moods for Misty Evenings" (Fourfivefivetenthst, 455 10th St., San Francisco, CA 94103): A collection of experimental music with mostly gentle, new age ambiences to them, though there are some harder chunks. I enjoyed Michael Richard's somewhat tentative piano pieces and Steve Goodfriend's cyclical "Agents of Persuasion". Pretty well off in its own musical territory, with few links to the mainstream. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Netherlands" (Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A collection of fairly interesting songs, most of them very experimental, a good many leaning towards the realm of background noise. I liked Y Create's "Life In A Day" and Gorgonzola Legs' "The Performance", a drifty piece about existential angst—a man can't get to the balcony in time to see a girl he's wanted to meet all his life because the performance is about to begin. (T/CER)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "NY Scum Rock—Live at CBGB!" (ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New york, NY 10012): A great collection of bands mostly from the lower east side that has always been the heart of CBGB. Mykel Board has produced a good collection of bands that play fast, loud, and fun. Don't look for politics in the music of "Fastlant and More McNuggets" or "Traci Lords' Ex-Lovers", just somewhat unpolished arrangements and lots of enthusiasm. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Optical Musics, Vol. 1" (Optical Musics, Agiou Nikolaou 51, Volos 38221, GREECE): A collection of music and stranger things from a variety of shifting arrangements of people. These include a few tracks of sort of traditional ballad/guitar music and quite a bit of more experimental stuff. THe overall tone is quite light, with strange rhythms and curious vocals but no attempt to drown the listener in sound. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Perimeter Records Christmas '89 Compilation" (Perimeter Records, PO Box 28882, Atlanta, GA 30358-0882): Well, this year we manage to get this reviewed in the right issue, and the annual Xmas mayhem from Perimeter is stranger than ever. From electronic manipulations to SOnic Youthish guitar mayhem, these folks manage to destroy the holiday spirit. Tracks include "Is Santa Satan?" and the ethereal eerie electronic "4AM Christmas Morning". (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Pop Collection 1" ($5.50 from Jan Bruun, Hypertonia World Enterprises, PO Box 4307, N-5008 Bergen, NORWAY): A delightful collection of international pop. Denmark's Bravo Dalton lead off with some very polished numbers. James Hill comes in later with some raunch pop from the states and the Flatmates do some good live music. 30 cuts in all, including material from lord Litter and Hermanos Guzanos. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Weed Sampler 3" (Winfred Pickart,. Breitenbend 34, 516 Düren, WEST GERMANY): Most compilation tapes have an overall theme; this is one of the exceptions. With tracks from 23 bands from at least half a dozen countries, it runs from pure rock to experimental assaults to jazz to mellow bar music to poppy dancefloor stuff. Contact addresses are provided for each band, in case you do hear something you like. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Who's Laughing Now?" ($5.50 from J.R. Bruun, Hypertonia World Enterprises, Heiryggen 2, N-8614, Ytteren, Norway): A truly creepy compilation chock full of wierd bands doing all sorts of scary (and sometimes kinda gross) things, like a dirgey Norwegian tune called "Chtulhu". The selections alternate between spine-tinglingly wierd sounds and utterances to haunting and pretty keyboard pieces. I've been playing this over and over and it's definately a must-have if you like thought-provoking work. (T/CER)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Xmas Tunes" ($5.50 from Jan Bruun, Hypertonia World Enterprises, PO Box 4307, N-5008 Bergen, NORWAY): An international comp tape of mostly pop, though it runs from the traditional choral arrangements of Leisure Sisters to the usual abrasive garbage from Costes. There's the expected number of silly and offensive songs ("Cook Your Cat for Christmas", "Christmas Means Wanking") but there are also a few things on here that your mother might appreciate. Traditional and new tunes are all featured. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Your Silence Will Not Protect You" (Maya Music Group, 341 Military Trail, #43, West Hill, Ontario Canada M1E 4E4): The poetry and music on this cassette interplay the cultural history and political oppression of Black and Native American peoples. Although the tape is informative, it is really the artful presentation that'll grab you. Traditional percussion rhythms back-up the challenging oral work.—"Christopher Columbus" by Afua Cooper should be played in school 'round the nation. (90 min)(pj)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Zombie Stomp" (Cellar Productions, 11 Werner Rd., Greenville, PA 16125): Though the production was often tinny and uneven, the intent never wavered. Rough and Tumble, grungy hardcore rock music that come through in short bursts of aggressive energy: nine bands' material crammed into one side of a cassette tape. They were all very similar, though some presented the style with humor, while others opted for a very serious attitude. (T/CS)

★★★★★

THE VELVET SWINES, "Secret Swines" (PO Box L-804, Langhorne, PA 19047): Experimental Industrial Noise. Lots of swirly, spacy noise that seems to change in complexity each time you start getting used to it. A few long and repetitive patches here and there, but generally interesting listening. (T/CER)

★★★★★

VIDNA OBMANA & PBK, "Compositions" (PBK Recordings, 115 W. 33rd, San Bernardino, CA 92405): Much of this electronic tape struck me as prologue: waves of majestic sound which seemed poised to break into faster themes but instead led into other waves of majestic sound. After a while I found this made me very edgy. In tone, the music reminds me a bit of the acid-trip sequence in *2001*, though there are no vocals here. Ponderous and intense. (T/MG)

★★★★★

VOCIFEROUS MUTES/CHAMELEON CIRCUS/QUAYLE self-titled (Esync Ocular Interchange, PO Box 380621, Miami Beach, FL 33238): Substantial music from three different art/electronic bands, with 16 tracks in all thanks to the magic of digital music. VM play off of religious rants to fuel their own jittery and industrial-flavored music. Quayle puts together extended-seeming jams, dark with synthesized progressions and ominous vocals. CC seem the closest to the mainstream, but even here, as with the tune "Sharon is Dead", things are twisted. Overall, a dark but fascinating disc. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

VOODOO GEARSHIFT, self-titled (Link Records, 277 Church St., 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10013): This one comes out of the Midwest and the past in about equal proportions. They play a crunchy stew of powerful rock riffs, borrowing heavily from the sounds of Aerosmith, Zeppelin, and other killer bands. As the record progresses, things gradually devolve from a restrained use of wa-wa to an all-out overamped fuzz guitar assault on the closing "Flashfire". Play it loud and enjoy. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE WALKING RUINS, "Going Down the Tubes" (PO Box 1785, Bloomington, IN 47401): Highly politicized highly powered guitar rock and roll. There's a brute strength here that can take a few minutes to get used to, but it pretty quickly coerces the listener into its own groove and keeps them there. Lots of silliness here, including the anti-anthem "Rock For No Reason", the insane "Freudian Slip", and the love (?) song "Little Miss Dynamite". (T/MG)

★★★★★

WENDY WALL, self-titled (SBK Records, 1290 Avenue of the AMericas, New York, NY 10104): This is sort of folky, concentrating on Wendy's voice and lyrics and simple guitar lines, but it's a very lush sort of folk, with plenty of other mellow instrumentation. The lyrics are mostly pretty direct, and Wall's voice is forceful but pleasant, making for good gentle background listening. "Postcard to the Stars" takes an understated approach to the problem of planetary destruction, and ends up being quite moving. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

WAYNE'S MOONWAX, self-titled ($3 from Stan Smith, Bug Scratch Tapes, 49 Muirfield, Abilene, TX 79606): Live Texas pop/rock stuff with a change of pace attitude. The sound quality isn't the best, and some of the tracks (like the Beatles cover) are pretty disposable. But they pour out the energy on their own stuff, creating a dancing good time spirit, and occasionally have a bit of fun, as on the reggae Pink Floyd they do. (T/MG)

★★★★★

WHEN PEOPLE WERE SHORTER AND LIVED NEAR THE WATER, "Bobby" (Shimmy-Disc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10016): Slop rock featuring plenty of guitars plus guest appearances from folks like RObert Poss, Kramer and Nicholas Collins. I guess you could call this a concept album, the concept being the demolition of lots of sappy pop songs written by Bobby Goldsboro (and one by Burt Bacharach for good measure). Raw, primitive, and an appropriate end for these schmaltzy little gems. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

LUCINDA WILLIAMS, "Passionate Kisses" (Rough Trade, 611 Broadway #311, New York, NY 10012): Williams' voice is a full, rich one that slides lazily up and down the scale like a fine instrument. Her style is gutsy, earnest, and full of conviction, and it serves her well, helping to distinguish her particular brand of country, folksy music with its strength and mellow timbre. (T/CS)

★★★★★

RICHARD WINTERGARTEN, "I Remember Christmas" (Pulstrak Records, PO Box 1520, Ansonia Stn., New York, NY 10023-9998): This is rather different from the usual run of things we review here: Christmas songs in the Bing Crosby traditional vein (though all are original compositions), scored with lots of piano, synths, and flute as well as guitars and of course vocals. Some tracks tend towards the schmaltzy or insipid, but Richard has a few gentle songs here suitable for cider by the fire on a snowy morning. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

WRECKAGE, "Subway's ENd" b/w "Body COunt" (Noise Pollution Records, 4525 Hazeltine #6, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423): It's sort of astounding that a record which folks say captures the '77 punk spirit can sound nostalgic, but that's the case here. It's not bad, but it's sure not up to date. THis red vinyl single has a good deal of spirit and should be a winner, whatever its musical referent. (45/MG)

★★★★★

JACK WRIGHT, "Ssaxophones" (audiofile Tapes, Carl Howard, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 113660): Two live performances featuring almost exclusively Jack's raw sax playing, together with some background noise and occasional vocal bleats. This is challenging music, solo attempts to raise the roof and blow your eardrums to the moon, and some of it grates across the nerves. But much is intriguing, interesting, even—strangely—beautiful. A highlight of the aT line. (T/MG)

★★★★★

X-RAY POP, "Zazzy Music" ($6 from G. Gasiorowski, Violet Glass Oracle, 6230 Lewis Ave. #105, Temperance, MI 48182): This is a 3-piece French experimental pop group. Naturally all the vocals are in French, but the bouncy music is pretty well international. It ranges from almost pure bubble-gum to stuff hardened by an infusion of rock energy, and generally plays with a musical phrase for quite a while before dropping it an moving on to something new. Quite effervescent. (T/MG)

★★★★★

YANCY "Change" & **2 CAR FAMILY** "Live at WFMU" (Yancy, 327 N. Vermont, Iola, KS 66749 & 2 Car Family, P.O.Box 3603, Lawrence, KS 66046): Yancy plays a sort of early-'80's style neopsychedelia with sorrowful-sounding lyrics lamenting various things. On the other side of the cassette, 2 Car Family plays fairly interesting garagey punk, but the gruff, barky vocals make for tough listening. (T/CER)

★★★★★

YOUNG FRESH FELLOWS, "This One's For the Ladies" (Frontier Records, PO Box 22, Sun Valley, CA 91353): Delightful pop rock with a great sense of humor, right down to identifying all the band members as playing lead guitar and photographing them at the drum kit. "Taco Wagon" could be the "Surfin' Bird" of the nineties; "One Day You Die" is the cheeriest morbid song I've ever heard. By turns contemplative, bouncy and just plain rockin', YFF turn out a great batch of tunes without clunkers. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BOB Z. "Barbed-Wire Slurp" (Bob Z/Stop-Gro, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): Folksey melodies and lyrics (a surprise since the cover's covered in all sorts of funky collaged bits of wierdness). Bob plays guitar fairly well, and has a nice singing voice, too. (T/CER)

★★★★★

BOB Z., "Dim Bulb Days" (c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): Ten folky-sounding protest tunes, featuring Z on guitar and vocals. THese include the indictment of developers "Shopping Mall Fiends", a yell at Mayor Koch in "Tompkins Square" and current problems like "Medical Waste". He also gets into some confrontational verse like "I Gotta Masturbate". Bob is improving, and this recording is better than some of the previous ones. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ZEN PARADE, self-titled (2339 N. Oak St., Falls Church, VA 22046): A relatively new guitar rock band in the DC area that's come up with a reasonably distinctive sound, all dreamy vocals and jangly interspersed musical parts. In fact they stick to this style so well that the tape lacks a bit of range; it's too homogeneous. But they do what they do well, and it's relaxing to listen to, and I like their flowing lyrics. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MUSIC NOTES

•**Geoff Balme** (4627 Franklin Rd., Voventry, RI 02816) is looking for records from, or at least information on, the Goons. If you can help, please drop him a line.

•**Brutal Records** (1035-C Veterans Blvd. #314, Metairie, LA 70005) is looking for new bands in the metal arena and would be pleased to inspect presskits.

•**C-60** (c/o John Aho, 6366 Plainview, Detroit, MI 48228) is the cassette-only radio show of CJAM-FM, heard in both Canada and the US. They're looking for creative music in any style, especially "wierd/experimental", for airplay.

•**Cud Brain Tapes** (Craig Blomquist, 48 Beck Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046) has a whole mess of tapes out in many alternative genres. SASE for a pricelist. Craig also wants people to know that his phone number has changed to (708)-356-7155.

•**The Dead Milkmen** (PO Box 58152, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8152) put out their own newsletter, with tour dates, record ordering info, letters, and general silliness. I'm sure they'll send you a copy for the asking.

•**The Dead Tape Search Service** (PO Box 55, Monroe, WI 53566) links up collectors of Grateful Dead music with those willing to trade copies of concerts. Send an SASE for more details.

•**Down Home Music** (10341 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530) sells blues, gospel, bluegrass, folk, country, ethnic, vintage rock and other genres of music via the mail. Two bucks will get you their latest extensive catalog, with capsule reviews of many of the things they sell.

•**Effective Learning Systems** (5221 Industrial Blvd., Edina, MN 55435) are the makers of "Love Tapes", a batch of affirmations, stop smoking, lose weight, and subliminal recordings. They also sell vitamins and language tapes. The catalog is probably free.

•**Elderly Instruments** (1100 N. Washington, PO Box 14210, Lansing, MI 48901) stock a huge variety of things from guitar strings to harmonicas to Cajun accordions. $2 will get you their latest catalog of acoustic instruments and accessories.

•**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** is the weekly promotional newsletter of 812 Productions (812 Richmond, Houston, TX 77006). I don't know how you get on the mailing list, but it seems to come free to us industry honchoes.

•**The Great Atlantic Radio Conspiracy** (2743 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218) has a new batch of tapes available on radical topics from AIDS to anarchism. For more information, write for their latest price list.

•**Hypertonia World Enterprises** (c/o Jan R. Bruun, PO Box 4307, N-5008 Bergen, NORWAY) is looking for tapes for their next compilation. Any style except industrial noise will be considered, though they're thinking of

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thrash/skate/speed/metal/hardcore as the theme of the next tape. Jan would also be interested in hearing from folks who'd like to put out whole tapes on the HWE label. @Body Text 7 pt = •**KAOS** (CAB 304, TESC, Olympia, WA 98505) is committed to independent music and proves it by adding all titles received to their playlist. If you have something to make available to their DJs, send it along.

•**Krapp's Last Tape** is a show on WCSB FM at Cleveland State University (Rhodes Tower, Room 956, Cleveland, OH 44115). Half of each show is devoted to cassette magazines and experimental poetry cassettes from around the world, so if that's your gig, send 'em in.

•**Ladyslipper** (PO Box 3130, Durham, NC 27715) carries an extensive selection of "recordings by women"—explicitly feminist, New Age, and otherwise. A buck or two should get their catalog.

•**Loudspeaker** (91X, attn: Marco Collins, 4891 Pacific Hwy, San Diego, CA 92110) is a new local music show for the San Diego area. They'd be interested in demo tapes and records from any local bands.

•**Mosh Pit records** (PO Box 9545, Colorado Springs, CO 80932) has their new mail order catalog of records, tapes, zines and t-shirts out, with some tendency to hardcore but a pretty eclectic selection. Send an SASE for your copy.

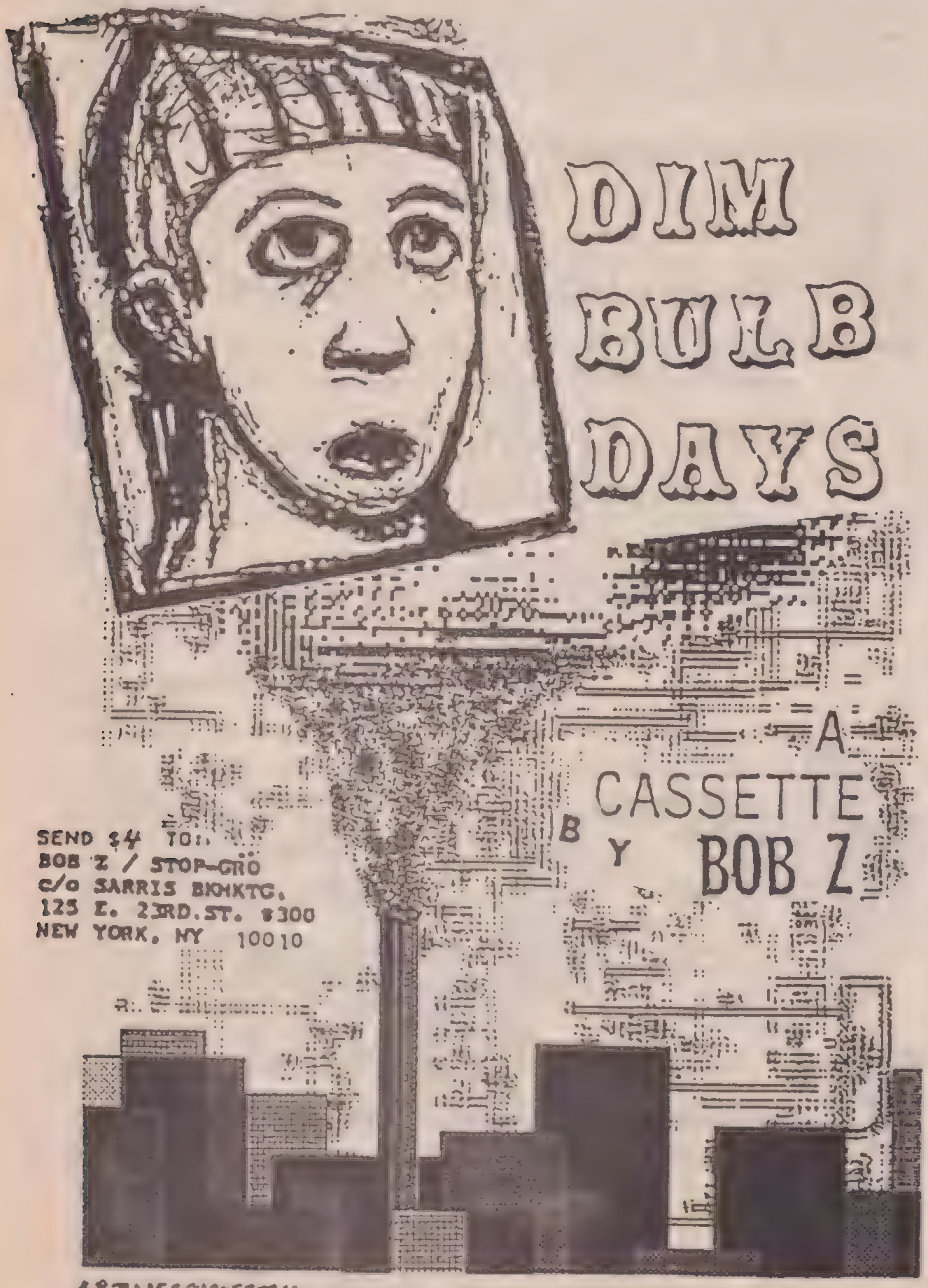
•**Mu New York Records** (111 4th Ave. #5A, New York, NY 10003) will send you their catalog of "progressive, jazz, and New Age music" for a 45¢ SASE.

•**Poison Plant** (7 Woodsend Pl., ROckville, MD 20854) is looking for music for their second compilation. Send material on metal tape before January 1st to be considered.

•**Porkopolis Cassettes** (PO Box 3529, Cincinnati, OH 45201) is soliciting submissions for a series of compilation cassettes. Interested bands should submit two or more tracks, or write for more information.

•**Radio 100** is a local radio station in Berlin, and they're very anxious to receive records and tapes from punk and other independent bands. You can send stuff for airplay to Harry Klussmann, c/o Konrad Korn, Glogauerstrasse 23, 1000 Berlin 36, WEST GERMANY.

•**RICE RADIO FOLIO** is the playlist and music notes tabloid of the radio station at Rice University. For copies or info, write to KTRU 91.7 FM, Houston, TX 77251-1892.



DIM BULB DAYS

= A CASSETTE BY BOB Z

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c/o SARRIS BKHKTG.
125 E. 23RD.ST. #300
NEW YORK, NY 10010

ART: MISKOWSKI + CUNNINGHAM

•**Storefront Bar-B-Q** (Shawn Swagerty, 428 Ridge St. NW, Washington, DC 20001-4622) puts out a newsletter with stuff on their own products, plus reviews of some other things. Looks like Shawn puts the whole thing together himself, and his opinions are entertaining, so send a couple of stamps to see for yourself.

•**Wayside Music** (PO Box 6517, Wheaton, MD 20906-0517) distributes a great deal of electronic and experimental music, from Tangerine Dream to Only a Mother. Their mail order catalog is free for the asking.

•**WKDI** (544 College Ave., Dekalb, IL 60115) sends me their playlist every once in a while. They seem to add a lot of indie music, and might be worth trying if you have a tape suitable for airplay.

"ME-YOW!"
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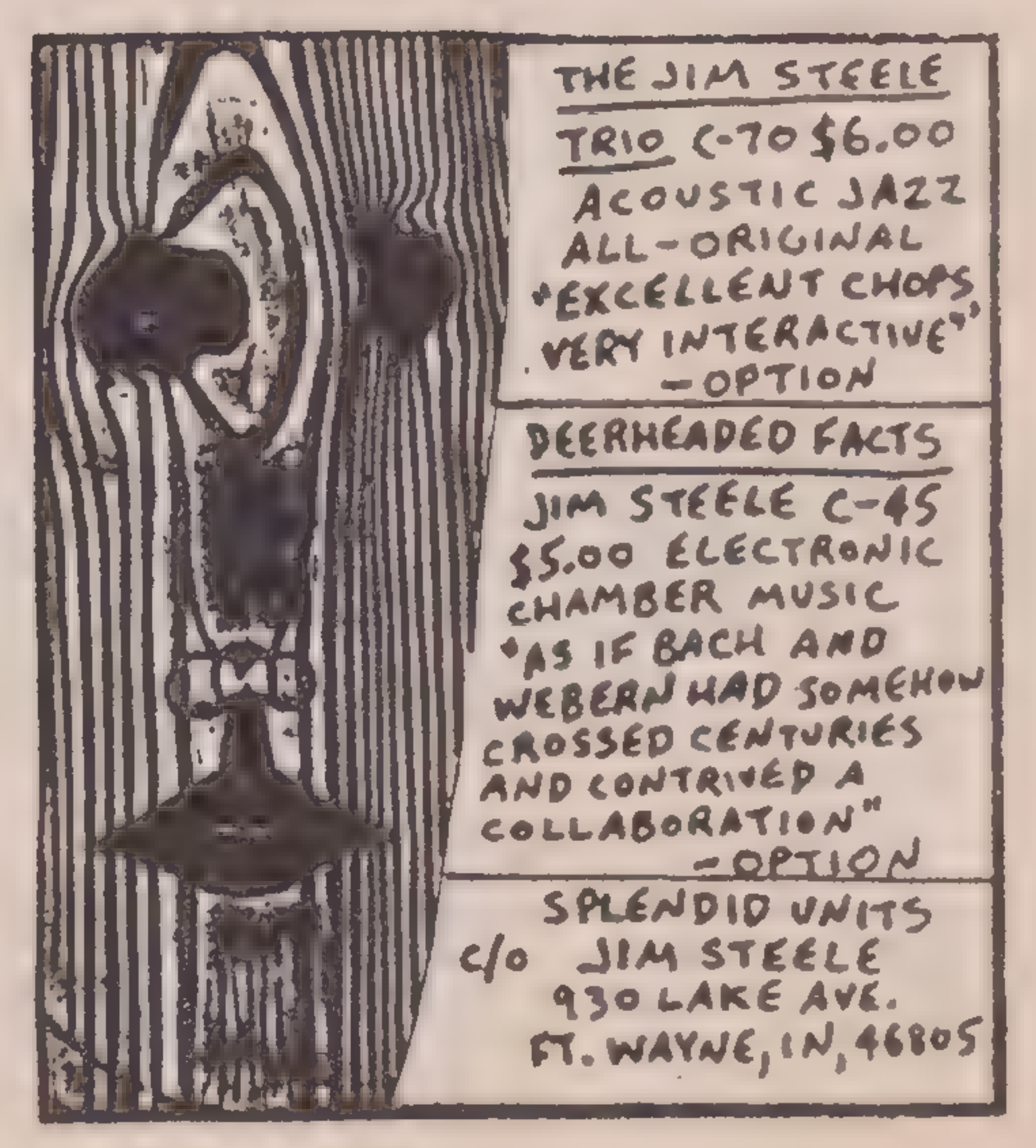

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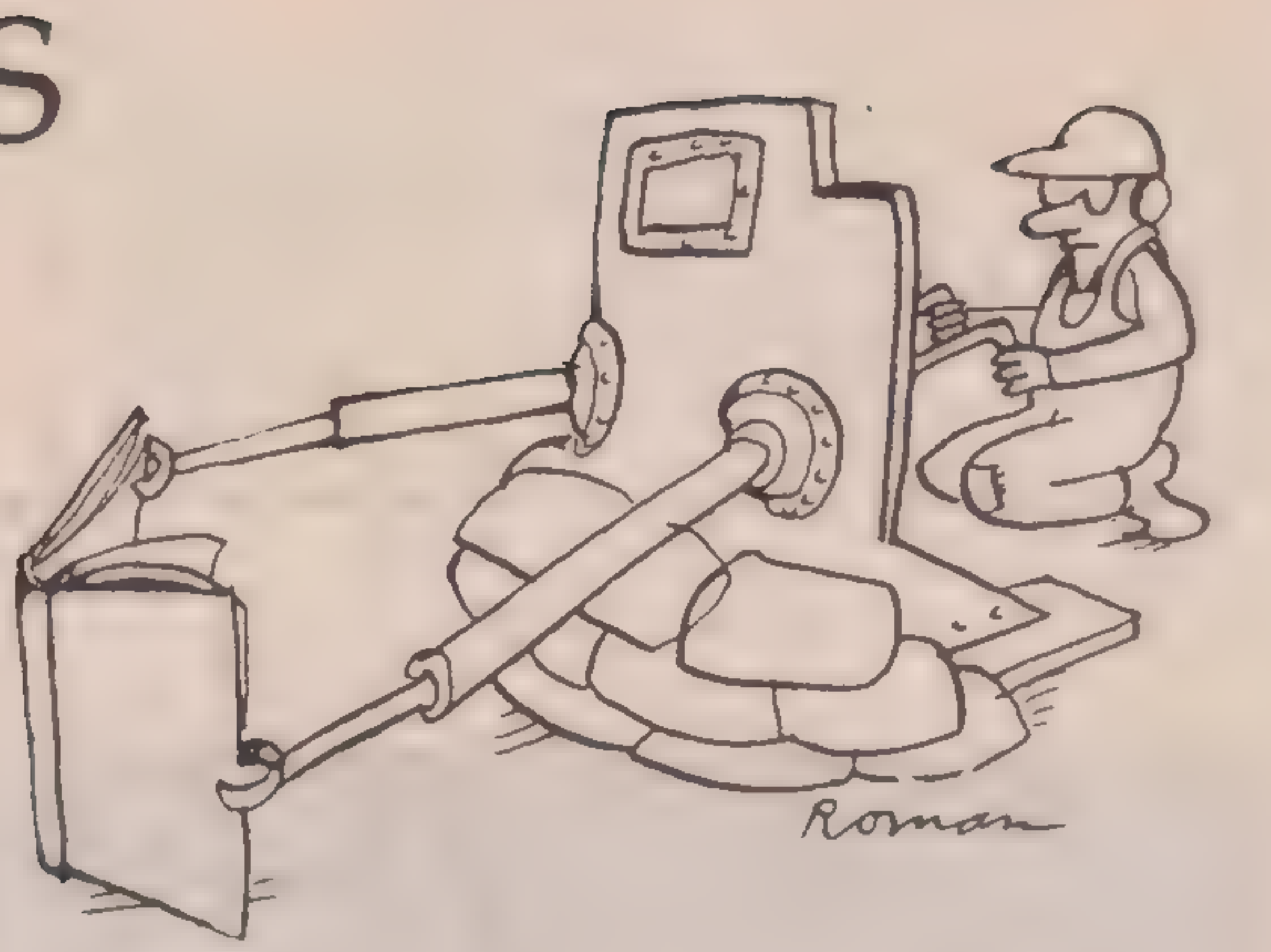
BOOKS



THE 1990 SAFER SEX MANIAC'S DIARY ($10 from Tuppy Owens, Box 4ZB, London, W1A, 4ZB, UK): Back again, this hardcover datebook starts off with erotic blue marbling on the cover. Inside, the first 70 pages are a directory to sex round the world: swinger's clubs, games to play, best and worst (best oral sex in the world is at a particular establishment in Taipei, or so they say), fantasy clubs, bulletin boards, etiquette for whores and johns, and much more. And of course, the safer sex guidelines come before anything else.

The rest of the book is the datebook section, with each day flanked by a miniature drawing of a position to try it in. The pages also have sexual quotations, quiz questions, and condom reviews. Along the edge runs a sexual flipbook movie. All in all, a hot package, sized perfectly for purse or pocket. (196 pp. hc)

★★★★★

Bruce Ballenger & Barry Lane, **DISCOVERING THE WRITER WITHIN** ($16.95 plus $3 p&h from Writer's Digest Books. 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207): The subtitle here is "40 Days to More Imaginative Writing", and this is basically a skills-building course for writers who want to stretch themselves. Through a series of half-hour (sometimes more, sometimes less), the authors teach brainstorming, freewriting, clustering and a few other techniques. I decided the best way to review this was to work through it, and the program does work to inspire writing, especially if you're the sort who feels guilty about not finishing a project once started. I also note that in the early days, with exercises that concentrate on identifying early memories and charged topics, the whole process can become quite psychologically charged; some of these essays I won't be sharing with others. But this is part of learning to turn off the internal critic and just write, leaving revising to later. The program is fun as well, with fractured fairy tales and short science fiction being a few of the things you'll be asked to come up with. Of use to the beginner and the more experienced writer alike. (176 pp. hc)

★★★★★

John Bell, **CANUCK COMICS** ($12.95 from University of Toronto Press, 33 E. Tupper St., Buffalo, NY 14203): "A Guide to Comic Books Published in Canada", this one is split between English speaking and Quebecois sections. Each starts with a longish history (the English by John Bell, the French by Luc Pomerleau) and then proceeds into listings, where they attempt to cover everything published from 1941 through 1985. These include minis as well as "real" comics, and give dates, formats, and a guess at value—although, since this is the first market guide in the area, these guesses may sometimes be off. There are a reasonable number of cover reproductions, and an introduction by Harlan Ellison. (154 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

D.S. Black & G. Sutton Breiding (eds.), **MEMORY LEAVES** ($10 from D.S. Black, 537 Jones St. #9156, San Francisco, CA 94102): A genre-crossing anthology of prose, poetry, and photographs, neither fish nor fowl, and so demanding to be treated on its own terms. If there's a common thread here it is that of nature versus the city, with man taking one side or the other depending on individual circumstances. Within these parameters, Thomas Burchfield provides a story of madness, Breiding sketches the urban ambience of San Francisco, and Dennis Brutus writes of Africa and African activists. Classy-looking. (S-100t)

★★★★★

Canadian Music Centre, **DIRECTORY OF ASSOCIATE COMPOSERS** ($8.95 from CMC, 20 St. Joseph St., Toronto, ONT, M4Y 1J9, CANADA): This is a guide to just about 200 Canadian composers who are associates of the CMC. Take, for example, Victor Davies. We learn from the capsule biography that he was born in Winnipeg in 1939, studied piano, and so on, through a listing of commissions and a quote about what he feels about his work. Then there's a list of affiliations, and finally a selected works list, broken down into "Music Theatre and Multi-Media", "Orchestra", "Chamber" and so on. All of this fits attractively on one sheet (the CMC is to be commended for the nice look of the book) which is then three-hole punched for a standard binder (not included) for ease of insertion. If you have an interest in Canadian classical music, this one is definitely for you, or at least for your local library. (S-400t)

★★★★★

Ravan Christchild, **THE AGONIES OF TIME** ($7.50 from Dunscaith Publishing Ltd., 28 West Lodge Ave., London W3 9SF, ENGLAND): Readers of Moorcock's Jerry Cornelius books will be struck by the familiarity of the themes here: eccentric characters pursuing their own inscrutable social and sexual needs, against a background of civilization crumbling and ominous wars and rumors of wars. I hesitate to say that the work is derivative, as I don't know Christchild's literary background (his social background, as given on the book jacket, is curious enough: run out of the USA on a rail for encouraging his Berkeley students to take LSD and doing 6 months in the slammer after the riots at the '68 Democratic convention), but it has precisely the same flavor as Moorcock's, right down to a plot which must be deduced by the reader on the basis of incomplete information. Since I happen to like this style and the mental exercise it provides the reader, I like the book, and Christchild has come up with some novel and striking nightmare images to go along with it. And if society really does crumble, we'll probably know no more than this about what is going on. But if you want a relaxing evening with all the loose ends tied, look elsewhere. (110 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Geoff Crowther, **AFRICA ON A SHOESTRING** ($24.95 from Lonely Planet, Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): Guidebooks to Africa are of two types. There are those who tell you how you can live like a tourist, staying in Hiltons or Sheratons, eating Western-style food, meeting fellow tourists, and getting a very distorted version of Africa. Then there are the Lonely Planet guidebooks, designed for the traveler with little cash who wants a romantic, but not terribly expensive, journey.

AFRICA ON A SHOESTRING is the oldest and largest of the Lonely Planet guides, expanded by about 20 percent from the 1986 edition. Crowther attempts to provide information about all 55 countries in Africa. Given the anarchy of that continent, this is a heroic task, which Crowther manages credibly, combining extensive personal travel with nearly 1,000 letters from other travelers. If you ever wanted to find out about the difficulties of getting a Gabonese visa, how to catch a *dhow* to Zanzibar, or whether the *couchettes* to Ouagadougou are comfortable, this is the one book you need.

The major fault of the book is, like most Lonely Planet guides, a bias towards cheapness. This is a book where you can learn everything about the two-dollar a night hotels in Aswan but nothing about the Old Cataract Hotel, Aswan's oldest and most eccentric accomodations. Granted that the Lonely Planet audience prefers travel off the beaten path, but occasionally the traditional tourist road is worth a mention.

Despite these minor faults, **AFRICA ON A SHOESTRING** is the best and most comprehensive guide to Africa currently being published. it is the one book that should be in every traveler's backpack when they travel to that continent. (Just don't take it to Malawi. Customs officers pay the supreme compliment of confiscating it, due to the uncomplimentary things it says about Malawian Leader for Life Hastings Banda.) (1164 pp. tpb) (Guest review by Martin Morse Wooster).

★★★★★

DEER MAN HAS THE ANTLERS TO YOUR HORNY QUESTIONS ($11.95 from TS Press, 1226 Vine Ave., Martinez, CA 94553): The collected wisdom of Deer Man Antlers, an advice columnist for the sexually confused, who refers to his work as "outlanderish". He's a horny guy, always offering to get in touch with wives or girlfriends to check things out. In addition to tongue-in-cheek advice of the Hefner school, he offers lots of bad puns ("Once more into the breeches" is but a small example) and a few limericks and other verse forms.

Some of this is funny, but there's also something here to offend everyone. In particular, the constant putting down of homosexuals (in one case as "terrifyingly disgusting") gets burdensome after a while, no matter how much the author tries to brush this off as merely a matter of taste. Fat people and feminists won't find a whole lot to enjoy here either. But lots of guys will get at least some chuckles from these ridiculous questions and answers. (221 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

John D.H. Downing (ed.), **FILM & POLITICS IN THE THIRD WORLD** ($11.25 from Libertarian Book Club, 339 Lafayette St. #202, New York, NY 10012): This is a collection of essays which have appeared in film periodicals around the world on the relationship between various film industries and the governments under which they work. Algeria, India, Iran, Brazil, China and many more are represented, either through interviews with particular directors or through surveys of the national industry. A number of problems echo throughout the book; chief among these are censorship and relations with first world filmmaking. I know little about the film industry and less about the film industry in the third world, but I still found this interesting reading. (317 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

John Wayne Gacy, **THEY CALL HIM MR. GACY** ($14.95 plus $2.25 s&h from McClelland Associates, Inc., PO Box 563, Brighton, CO 80601): This is a collection of correspondence to and from convicted mass murderer John Wayne Gacy, photocopied from his originals. People have all manner of reasons for writing to him. Interviewers and violence junkies he generally brushes off, but sincere and friendly pen pals are often answered at length. Gacy maintains his innocence and says 80% of what's written about him is nonsense. While there are bits of philosophy here, much is just chit-chat or business (many letters relate to the sale of his paintings of clowns, two of which decorate the color covers of this book).

The letters come from all ages and walks of life, ten to eighty years old. I suspect a few of them are hoaxes, but Gacy respects them all in his answers. Oprah Winfrey and Lux Interior are the most famous names here; most private persons have their names and addresses blacked out to preserve their privacy.

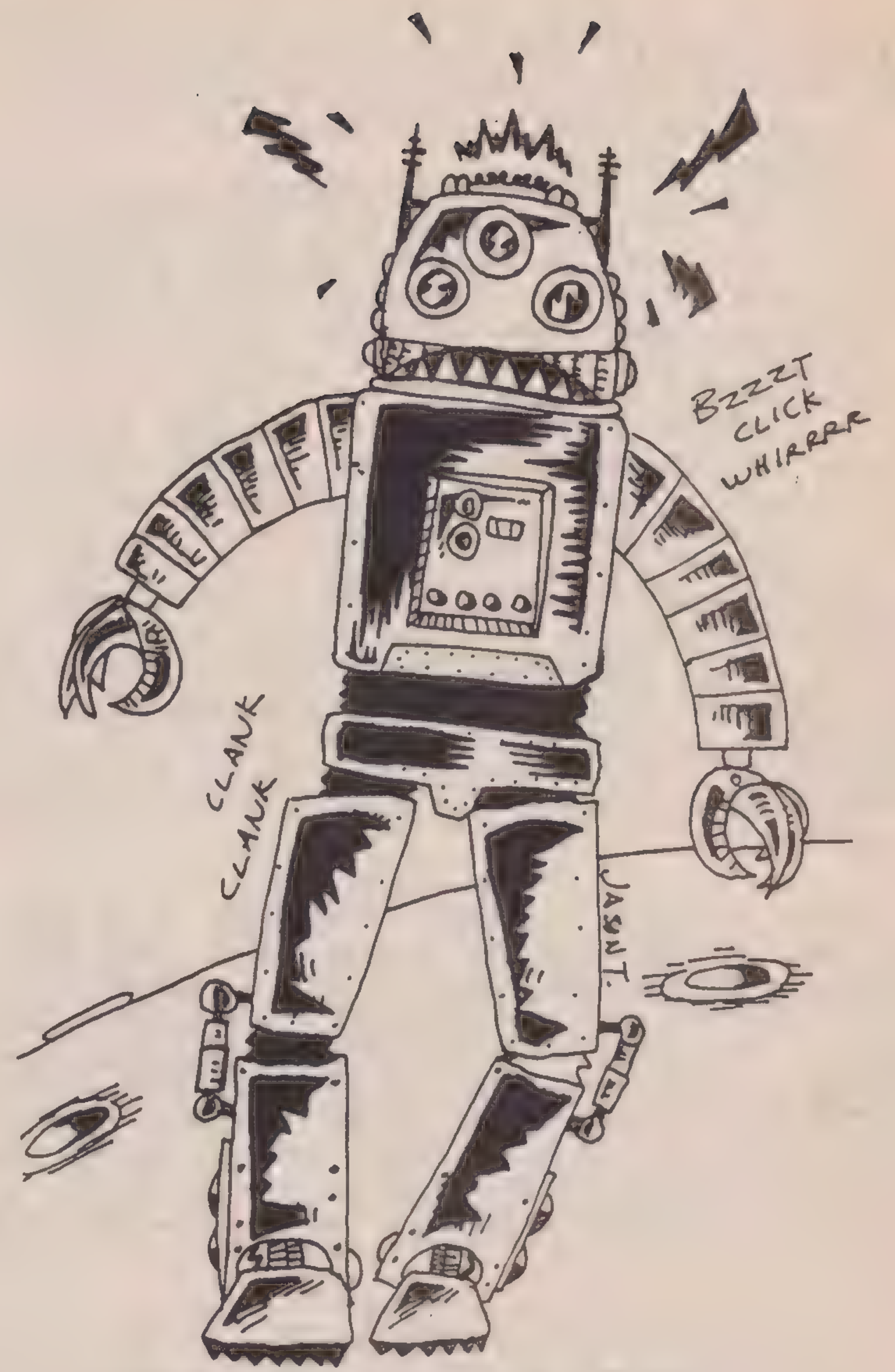
There's only a few faults here, the major one being the haphazard arrangement of letters; they're neither chronological nor by correspondent, which makes matching answer with letter difficult. And in some cases the answers are not included. But then, this isn't really to be read as a novel, but more a slice of a notorious life, and on that level it certainly succeeds. And if it comforts you, no money from the book is going to the author. (200 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Rev. Antonio Gallonio, **TORTURES & TORMENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS** ($$12.95 from Feral House, PO Box 861893, Los Angeles, CA 90086-1893): A translation of a book originally published in the 16th century as a catalog for the faithful, to edify them about what punishments their ancestors had taken. Gallonio is a very *precise* sort of guy, classifying the tortures into chapters and then distinguishing between them, right down to the distinctions between "blows", "buffets" and "slaps". He also writes in the sort of self-righteous tone still common in academe, saying of those who disagree with him on the interpretation of sources "such folk seem to us to be as far from the truth as the East is from the West".

It's a gory book, aided by gory illustrations—both the original engravings, and new ones from such luminaries as Joe Coleman, Charles Manson, and S. Clay Wilson. Along the way you'll meet up with some stories that seem to be pretty exaggerated, similar to modern wartime atrocity tales—for example, of Christians having their liver cut out and eaten by the barbarians while they're still alive. You'll also develop a rather hopeless feeling for the depths of man's inhumanity to man—which isn't relieved any by the knowledge that this edition is being put out unapologetically as titillation.

As an added bonus, the tail end of the volume contains parts of a report written by some Mayo Clinic doctors "On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ". But by the time I got there, I was so numb from the pages of burnings, beatings, crucifixions, impalings, and so on that I was already pretty zoned out. (275 pp. tpb)



UNEMPLOYED PULP SCI-FI ROBOT IN SEARCH OF STORY IN CYBER-PUNK WASTELAND

★★★★★

Freddie Greenfield, **WERE YOU ALWAYS A CRIMINAL?** ($9 from FR Publications, PO Box 331, Boston, MA 02215): Published by the good folks at **FAG RAG**, this is Freddie's story, starting with being a young (12 years old) Jewish junkie faggot—and proud of it. Later on, he talks of life as a hustler (on the carnival midway, with dice, cards, forgery and con games of all sorts) and finally poet (with a style reminiscent of Tommy Trantino and Henry Miller). Freddie writes in a sort of breathless style, repeating things until the details sink in:

"Hush when's the last time you seen Hush Freda when's the last time you seen her? Did you know that did you know Miss Al went with Hush before you went with her with Hush yes. So we went and I got a room at the Y it was a big Y with plenty of available rooms on weekends on weekends that's when the place could be counted on for activity sexual activity action. After that same night when the last mark straggled off the midway come on let's go to the bar the gay bar downtown so with Al and this other quean who thought she was my sponsor because she once got me her lawyer friend to defend me her lawyer friend who helped me get three years six months and nine days."

The story is interesting in itself (at least once you get past learning how to read Freddie's style) but it may have a deeper point: acceptance, perhaps. Or just the enjoyment of a new and (to most of us) different view of the world. (88 pp tpb)

★★★★★

HANUMAN BOOKS

These delightful little shirt-pocket sized books are put out by Raymond Foye Editions. Printed in India, they feature sewn bindings and even colorful dust jackets. They're only available in series of six books, so if any of these titles interest you, your best bet is to get their catalog ($1 should cover it, from PO Box 1070, Old Chelsea Stn., New York, NY 10113-0905). If you're really gung-ho you can just go ahead and send $25 for the set and take your chances as to which books you get.

Herbert Huncke, **GUILTY OF EVERYTHING:** Huncke apparently did the drug and fringe scene even before Kerouac and Burroughs. Here he reminisces a bit about the early days: a hermaphrodite show, heroin and other drugs at incredibly cheap prices (85¢ for 25 amphetamine tablets), cheap hotels and his own naivete figure prominently. Imagine Hunter Thompson mutated into someone with more aplomb and a deadpan literary style. (76pp)

Cookie Mueller, **FAN MAIL, FRANK LETTERS, AND CRANK CALLS:** Yes, that's *the* Cookie Mueller, from **Pink Flamingos** and other John Waters movies. This is a cute little novelette, told in the form of letters and transcribed phone calls, and tracing the relations of an extended and somewhat crazy family. Obsession, new professions, support groups, drugs and love are the themes here, skillfully interwoven into a fun story. Includes color plates. (80pp)

John Wieners, **CONJUGAL CONTRARIES & QUART:** Weiners is a very strange, edgy writer. His stuff trots along at a good pace, not pausing for niceties of punctuation and sentence structure. Encompassed in this kaleidoscope view are the Kennedys, some Massachusetts state history, and a life of poverty and addiction. (64pp)

★★★★★

HAVE WE GOT A WRITER FOR YOU! ($7.95 from The Federation of British Columbia Writers, PO box 2206, Main PO, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3W2, CANADA): This is basically a directory of members of the Federation, listing 250 writers in Britich Columbia together with their specialties. The listings are organized geographically and each gives a contact address, genres and preferred subjects, print and other media credits, awards and prizes, teaching and related experience, services offered and comments. Directed towards those in the area who might need to hire a writer, this is a service that could be emulated by other local or regional writing societies. (132 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Michael A. Hoffman II, **A CANDIDATE FOR THE ORDER** ($5 from Wiswell Ruffin House, PO Box 1449, Temecula, CA 92390): This is the story of John Schmidt, a simple man of Aryan stock living in a poor neighborhood of Rochester, New York. Through no fault of his own, he runs afoul of the American justice system, and is soon thrown into a nightmare world where black is white, poverty is strength, and everyone belives six million Jews died in the Holocaust. Fortunately, The Order is out there to lend a hand. Though Schmidt at first refuses their help, secure in his conviction that the American system of justice workd, he eventually sees the error of his ways.

That's the bare-bones plot here. Just in case you can't tell, this is mostly propaganda rather than a novel, written from a white-separatist point of view. That is, the author doesn't want to see other races subjugated, he merely wants to see his own left to develop in peace, apart from them, to fulfill its own destiny. Hoffman is quite aware that most people will find this an intolerable book, and I suspect that there are many FF readers who will agree. If you can stand to read it, though, it will lay out the basic points of white separatism and some thoughts on historical Revisionism in a reasonably well-written novel. I don't buy into everything that the author says via John Schmidt, and I deplore the ugly stereotyping of blacks and Jews in this book. But he's certainly got a right to try to be heard, and debated on the merits of his ideas, rather than to be dismissed as just another racist. Whatever else this point of view may be, it is not unsophisticated hatemongering. (140 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Frank Key, **TWITCHING AND SHATTERED** (£5.50 from Malice Aforethought Press, 328 Brettenham Road, London E17 5AU, UK): This is a collection of many of Frank's shorter works, including the infamous "Tales of Hoon" and his series of dust jackets for forthcoming books. It also contains the wildly funny "Some Lesser Known Editions of the Bible", an exercise in parodied scholarship that had me rolling on the floor. I like Frank's writing quite a bit. He has a perfectly deadpan style that can string together the most utter nonsense and make it fascinating. Here's a sample of his style, from "Man of Bandages":

"Encased from head to foot in skindiving equipment, the Man of Bandages spoke freely and at length—but unintelligibly. A number of witnesses believed he was speaking Hungarian; others an obscure Lowland argot; yet others thought he was spontaneously inventing his own language. Whichever, his tirade, muffled by the skindiving helmet and punctuated with hoots, was incomprehensible. The magistrate later expressed regret that he had allowed the Man of Bandages to conduct his own defence. The trial, which should have lasted for two days, ran on for seven years. The jury gradually fell victim to stupor and ennui; one juror hanged herself shortly before the end of the trial."

Personally, I find this style delicious, whether Frank is writing of mysterious foreign agents, trips to Iceland, or bicycles and earwigs. If you're fond of relatively sophisticated and curious humor, you too should own a copy. (136 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Dr. Jeffrey Lant, **DEVELOPMENT TODAY: A FUND RAISING GUIDE FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS** ($28.95 from Jeffrey Lant Associates, 50 Follen St. #507, Cambridge, MA 02138): In this book, Jeffrey Lant turns his advice on how to succeed from the individual to the organization—specifically, the nonprofit organization. If you're like me you get dozens of solicitations from "good causes" every month, and toss a fair proportion of them in the trash. But as Lant shows, direct mail fundraising is only a small part of the picture. Most of this book is about ways to raise substantial sums of money, through identifying and then properly pursuing links from your Board of Directors to possible funding sources. Everything is laid out in detail, from sample letters right down to a timetable for running a major campaign. There's even advice onhow to recover from turned-down proposals—and when not to fund raise in the first place. Clear and concise, as with the rest of his stuff. I suspect I'll be drawing on it for some of my work with our local food co-op, even though we are not-for-profit rather than nonprofit (a different animal under New York state law). (280 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Evelyn Lau, **RUNAWAY: DIARY OF A STREET KID** (Available in Canada from Harper & Collins, $5.95 in major stores. In the states, try ordering by phone from the Longhouse Bookshop in Toronto, at (416)-921-9995, or ask your book store to special order it: the ISBN is 0-00-215984-8): Evelyn is a remarkable young lady: a runaway at fourteen, a hooker heavily into drugs at sixteen, and now a published author at eighteen. This book is the story of her first couple of years away from home, of sinking into life on the streets and struggling to rise above it again. Ultimately, after several suicide attempts, it's her writing that helps her pull out of the morass. She decided to be a writer at the age of six, and no matter how bad things got, she always had the anchor of her journal, the one constant factor in a life otherwise battered about, from Vancouver (where she still lives) to Boston and back, through LSD and methadone and valium and blow jobs and rape and a load of other nasty experiences.

This is a remarkable book. It pulls no punches in describing the loss of self-respect and the things that a person will do to survive on the street. But it's not full of heavy-handed moralizing either. Evelyn doesn't dwell on whether what she did was right or wrong. Instead, she lays it all out for the reader to decide. This might make a few kids think twice about life on the streets. It would probably be better if it made a few parents think twice about the way they're treating their kids.

It's very difficult to review this book without trivializing its impact. I was scared and horrified while reading it, and sad that I hadn't been able to help out while it was happening. You see, I knew Evelyn years ago, when she was putting out her own zine, PIGEON DROPPINGS—there are even reviews of a few issues of that buried in back issues of FF someplace. What happened to the young author of that hopeful poetry should not have happened to anyone. Oh, sure, now it's the story of a small presser made good, of hope surmounting over huge obstacles. But it sure can't have been fun to live through.

I think this is an extraordinary book, so extraordinary that I urge you to get it now, even though there is as yet no American edition. And you Canadians should help put it on the bestseller list, so there will be an American edition. (341 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Robert Martin, **BRAIN DAMAGE** ($25 from Broslin Press, PO Box 1711, Hoboken, NJ 07030): A limited edition of the novelization of Frank Henenlotter's screenplay of the same name, together with a few pages of stills from the movie. This is the story of the Aylmer, a sort of psychic parasite which lives on brain tissue and secretes hallucinogens in return, and Brian, the young man who becomes its host and victim. As befits a film adaptation, this is told in cinematic style, jumping from scene to scene as fast as a camera cut. It's gory and fast-moving, and if Martin gets perhaps a bit too arty in spots, that's to be expected in trying to bring special effects down to the page. Should be a fast and furious reading addition to the library of any gore movie junkie. (104 pp. hc)

★★★★★

Lana Miller, **CALL OF THE DOLPHINS** ($12.95 plus $2 s&h from Rainbow Bridge Publications, PO Box 19730-616, Portland, OR 97219): This is a very difficult book for me to review. It was right up front, about page three, that I realized it simply wasn't going to fit in with my normal rational scientific worldview: "A few days later, Merlin the Magician made his presence known to me as a Master Teacher from the Pleiades." If you're of the hardheaded skeptic persuasion, you may skip to the next review; you'll find this book to be an amazing melange of New Age, pseudoscience, and gullible acceptance.

On the other hand, those of you still with us may find this an interesting experiment in gestalt or hologrammatic writing. It's the tale of Lana's journey through the New Age, trying to figure out why she feels such a strong psychic link with sea mammals. Everything comes together here, from citizen diplomats to the fight to save old growth forests, from the crystal skull to John Lilly's experiments with busting open belief systems and communicating with dolphins. Along the way Lana has done it all, from firewalking to pulling up stakes and moving suddenly to skydiving blindfolded to swimming with dolphins. Finally, it becomes the story of a network of people, a "vast international family linked together by dolphin/whale consciousness" and determined to do good things in the world.

Overall, this is an intense and very personal, though mostly nonfalsifiable, book. Lana writes with an openness and ring of sincerity which is very appealing, and occasionally I found myself able to make the leap past skepticism to belief, or at least suspension of disbelief. If you want to keep touch with these ideas, there's going to be a newsletter growing from this book, with profits used to release captives back into the wild. (226 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Jerry Mintz (ed.), **1989-1990 NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS** ($12.50 from NCACS, 58 Schoolhouse Rd., Summertown, TN 38483): This is the latest edition of the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools' extensive directory. They list about 600 alternative schools across the country (and in 20 foreign countries, for that matter) and present detailed profiles of about half of them. Contact information is included so that you can call those close to you and get your kids involved if you wish. They also note which schools have some boarding facilities, list college programs of interest to alternative schoolers, and give notes on resources for homeschoolers. A variety of support groups fill up a final section before an extensive bibliography. Recommended for any parent fed up with the education bureaucracy. (156 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Ted Nace with Daniel Will-Harris, **VENTURA TIPS & TRICKS**, 2nd Edition ($24.95 & $3 s&h from Peachpit Press, 1085 Keith Ave., Berkeley, CA 94708): Ventura Publisher is a vastly useful and widespread program for desktop publishing. (Among other things, it's the program which takes **FACTSHEET FIVE** from the computer to the printed page). It's also a tough program to learn, and one which is difficult to use fully, thanks to its complexity. Well, this book is made to change all that. It covers the basics of the program, the hardware needed to run it, graphics, fonts, label printing, envelopes...just about anything you can do with a computer and a laser printer—and Ventura. And it does it well.

In fact, it's tough to critique this book, simply because there is so much downright useful information in it. I learned a hell of a lot from the first reading, and expect to learn more in repeated readings—and I thought I already knew the program pretty well. A few of the nice things here: listings of special characters and keyboard shortcuts on the inside front covers; simple instructions for printing style sheets, an explanation of "box text" which finally made sense to me, and notes on software which works well with the system. There's a tip on recovering after your large screen fonts have mysteriously vanished that would have saved me six hours of work had I known it. More useful tips appear in the "voodoo tricks" chapter, since the authors know things go wrong despite hopeful PR. The guide to resources in Appendix B is likewise very useful.

A few warts, just to balance the picture: the discussion of the LC2 print controller comes very close to being an advertisement; they're not perfect for low-dollar users (missing both Digi-Fonts and Sprint entirely), and they're low on pictures (which would have helped, for example, in the discussion on dithering). But overall, these are very, very minor complaints. Let me put it simply: if you use Ventura Publisher, and you don't buy this book, then you've either spent hundreds of hours learning everything you need to know or you're an idiot. (760 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Kay Nelson, **WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY: A LEGACY TO YOUR FAMILY** ($8.95 plus $2 s&h from Westwinds Publications, PO Box 71105, Seattle, WA 98107): This is a very basic support book for those thinking of penning their memoirs. It alternates advice—on what to write, how to write it, what format to publish it in—with "Memory Sparkers", designed to remind people what they saw when they were younger. These range from figures on the national debt to extensive lists of what songs and movies debuted in which year.

The key word here is "basic". There are a lot of writing manuals longer and more comprehensive than this one, but this one is aimed at non-writers, or at least at people who don't intend to write for a living. So it doesn't try to be comprehensive, and in fact is quite a slim book. It looks to me like the memory sparkers are the most useful thing here—but then I like to think I already know the basics of writing. (79pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Alex Newton, **CENTRAL AFRICA: A TRAVEL SURVIVAL KIT** ($10.95 from Lonely Planet, Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): This is a welcome addition to the Lonely Planet series of guidebooks which now cover nearly all of the Third World and parts of the First World. The book covers eight countries: Cameroun, Central African republic, Chad, The Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe, and Zaire; together with LP's five other African books (**AFRICA**; **WEST AFRICA0**; **EAST AFRICA**; **EGYPT AND THE SUDAN**; and **MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND TUNISIA**) nearly the entire continent is covered in both breadth and depth. **CENTRAL AFRICA** is written in the usual LP style, and as such it both benefits from the usual strengths and suffers from the usual weaknesses.

I highly recommend LP books, particularly for those travelers who believe that staying at the Intercontinental Hotel is just like not leaving home at all. LP books are not encyclopedic in the sense of Bill Dalton's **INDONESIA HANDBOOK** ($17.95 from Moon Publications, 722 Wall St., Chico, CA 95928) and as such there is always room for improvement. On the other hand, there is often no better coverage for an area than LP. The standard guidebooks (e.g., Fodor) usually only cover large cities, expensive hotels, and major and easily accessible tourist attractions. This is the case for **CENTRAL AFRICA**—there is no better guide book for the area.

The biggest weaknesses of LP books are an index that lists only cities, towns and national parks, and brief entries for towns that sometimes leave you wondering whether there is really nothing to do there or whether the author had not thoroughly researched that particular area. It is of course impossible to be everywhere all the time, even more so in a region such as Central Africa, and so LP always says in their books, "Things change—prices go up, schedules change, good places go bad and bad places go bankrupt—nothing stays the same. So if you find things better or worse, recently opened or long since closed, please write and tell us and help make the next edition better!" The prices they list for visiting mountain gorillas in Zaire are much too low, for instance, because of the rise in tourism created by the movie *Gorillas in the Mist*. LP offers a free copy of the next edition to the best letter writers.

Another weakness of LP books is the lack of a bibliography, however in compensation **CENTRAL AFRICA** has frequent references to other books about Africa. It does however omit Helen Winternitz's **EAST ALONG THE EQUATOR** (The Atlantic Press, 1987) and Alex Shoumatoff's **IN SOUTHERN LIGHT** (Simon and Schuster, 1986), two excellent travelogues about crossing the great expanse of Zaire by boat and truck.

Central Africa receives little tourism for a number of reasons. Generally the regional transportation infrastructure is poor or nonexistent (John Kelly states in this book. "[The road from Kisangani to Buakavu] is the most desperate piece of road I've ever encountered. It should not be attempted by people not willing or equipped to dig themselves out of bogs above their wheel-arches up to five or six times a day, There are log bridges that will need rebuilding and a well directed prayer before you can cross."). Some countries have had a history of brutal dictatorship and chronic corruption, And, outside of the capital cities, there is often a lack of "tourist class" hotels. What Central Africa does have however are some excellent wildlife preserves, a great diversity of cultures and languages, dense rainforests, glacier-capped mountains (the Ruwenzoris, also known as the Mountains of the Moon by Ptolemy), and friendly people largely uncorrupted by tourism. This is a poor area of the world, even by Third World standards, but this is not uniformly true throughout the region. Cameroun, for instance, has a good infrastructure and the southern part of the country is relatively well-off. Zaire has a tremendous natural wealth, but has been long suffering from the greed of its dictator Mobutu and from multi-national interests.

LP books are socially conscious, and **CENTRAL AFRICA** is no exception. By their very nature, LP books are socially conscious because of their focus on budget traveling and hence their listings of cheap accommodations and out-of-the-way locales which are less likely to directly benefit multi-nationals or corrupt dictators. LP also donates a percentage of its profits to social and environmental causes in some of the areas that its books cover. **CENTRAL AFRICA** lists the World Wildlife Federation as a beneficiary. It also has political analyses and historical summaries that spare no one, neither the brutal colonialists not the often equally brutal dictators.

CENTRAL AFRICA has a good summary of the music (traditional, Congo, Makossa, Afro-beat, Juju, and Sahelian), arts, and culture (including a description of the major ethnic groups, and a description of common social customs) that are some of the main attractions of Central Africa.

Coverage of language and ecology is weaker by necessity because of the great diversity. The range of languages in Central Africa is so great that all countries in the region have a European language as the official language, and all educated people speak a European language (French is the official language in 6 of the 8 countries covered). Central African ecology ranges from rainforest to desert to frigid mountains to dry savannas.

CENTRAL AFRICA is the book to take if you are going there. It provides sufficient information for getting there, around and back as safely as possible. It gives good background information, maps of major cities, and references to further information. (263 pp. tpb) (Guest review by Thomas H. Slone)

★★★★★

THE PC-SIG ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SHAREWARE ($17.95 from PC-SIG, 1030D E. Duane Ave., Sunnywale, CA 94086): If you have an IBM-compatible computer, and you don't have unlimited money to spend on software, then you need this book. It gives the lowdown on the first 1500 disks of shareware in the PC-SIG library, disks which are available to you for only $6 each. Now, since this is shareware, that's not the whole cost; most of the program authors ask for a registration fee (generally in the $20 to $100 range) if you like and continue using the program. But it is a way to try before you buy.

For each program, the encyclopedia gives the title, a brief description, a list of special requirements (other software or hardware needed to make the program work) and the author's registration fee. The PC-SIG disk number is also provided so you can order. Programs are arranged by major groups (i.e., "Communication Programs") but there is extensive cross-referencing and indexing to make it easy to find what you're looking for.

I'm a firm supporter of the shareware concept. Most of the software I use is shareware, and I'm very satisfied with it. I encourage other users to consider this route, and to consider this book as an aid to taking it. (417 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Tim Powers, **THE ANUBIS GATES** ($25 [or $65 for the limited edition, with autographs] from Mark V. Ziesing, PO Box 76, Shingletown, CA 96088): This is the first hardcover edition of a book already proven to be a classic in paperback. Ziesing has done Powers proud: the book has a sturdy feel to it, and the introduction by Ramsey Campbell and illustrations by Mark Bilokur (whose work has appeared in FF) add to the appeal. But this is not all packaging by any means. **THE ANUBIS GATES** is a delightful time-travel novel, wandering the badlands between science fiction, fantasy and historical romance, and turning out a wonderfully complex story along the way. I can think of other works that so skillfully tie loose ends together into a beautiful gestalt, but they're all multi-volume sets (Moorcock's Eternal Champion series and Zelazny's Amber novels, for example). Powers continually whipsaws the readers between bafflement and enlightenment, while simultaneously teaching an Egyptian-based theory of magic, showing an unexpected love story developing, and building up a wild fantasy world in the beggar-ridden sewers of London. If you haven't read this book, you ought to; if you have, this durable edition would be a nice addition to your collection. (361 pp. hc)

★★★★★

RE/SEARCH #12: MODERN PRIMITIVES ($18 from 20 Romolo #B, San Francisco, CA 94133): The latest in the **RE/SEARCH** series of what might be called alternative coffee table books—full page size with lots of photos and attention to graphic design. This one is about permanent changes to the body, via tattooing, scarification, or piercing, with some notes on why people do this as well as precisely what they have done. All told, there are about 25 interviews and a couple of essays here, as well as a section of quotations and a well-done bibliography.

It's an ambitious project, and not all the pieces in the book work out. Some of the tattoo artists are frankly sort of dull, and their theorizing on what they do doesn't strike too deep. However, at the front and the back are a pair of extensive interviews which do explore what's going on in depth. The first is with Fakir Musafar, who seems to be unique in the level to which he has taken body adornment. He's not excessively tattooed (though what he does have is striking) but he has practiced all manner of body modification, from sticking various daggers through himself to being suspended by hooks through his flesh to tight corsets to penile elongation. Fakir has also delved into the history of this subject and has a lot to report on what's gone on in other lands and other places. Plus he's articulate, which always helps.

At the other end of the book are Genesis and Paula P-Orridge, the main movers of the Temple ov Psychick Youth. They're both tattooed and pierced, and Genesis has some ritual scars as well. They discuss how it all fits in with ritual, another area of modern primitivism, and do it in their usual outrageous manner. Their use of their own bodies as a mnemonic device for personal history is sort of a diary by other means.

This is not a book for the weak of heart or stomach. "Piercing" means sticking things through the body, often the sexual organs, and there are graphic descriptions and pictures which leave nothing to the imagination here. But it you're fascinated by the idea of people using themselves as canvas, it's a great collection of work. (212 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

C.E. Roberts, **BURN DROP COP OUT** (A$15 [checks/MOs must be in Australian currency] from C.E. Roberts, 5/143 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood 3184, AUSTRALIA): A rather confusing book that has emanated from the mail art community. Roberts is telling at least four stories at once here; one runs horizontally across the bottoms of the pages, the other three vertical. Of the vertical stories, one is entirely graphics, one is stream-of-consciousness journal notes, and the third consists of short and apparently sensible sentences. Then there's the letters in the corners of the pages which bring their own sentence into the works. The whole rearranges itself in many ways depending on how it is read, and linearity vanishes from the work entirely. Themes include the relation between art and language and possibly that between man and nature. (A4-100t)

★★★★★

RYDER PUBLISHING

Ryder is a private book club in England, where there is somewhat more latitude for materials circulated to club members than there would be for openly sold books. Club members sign an agreement that they will keep the materials to themselves and that they're over 18 years of age. To join the club costs £5; the books—actually more like booklets—are £7 overseas by air mail, from BCM Box 3406, London, WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND.

They sent me three to sample, all with the theme of female slavery. **PLANET OF SLAVES** chronicles the visit of a starship to Sirius Eight, to welcome the population to United Planets. Unfortunately, the Sirians have other ideas, and they manage to induct the crew members to their system of society instead, where the women are the willing slaves of the men. **THE CAPTAIN'S SLAVES** has a more usual setting but an even more fantastic slant. Young women are disappearing from a women's peace camp, and it proves that they're ending up in slavery on the Navy base next door. The book follows Celia, one of the camp's leaders, as she realizes the error of her ways and the joys of being enslaved and beaten. **QUEEN OF A CONQUERED COUNTRY** features a number of classic themes, all revolving around the idea of a lost war and the consequences thereof. The Queen of the losing country is defiled by the President of the winner; the prettiest young women are rounded up and sent to whorehouses for the soldiers, supervised by sadistic guards. For the black leather jackboot crowd, this is probably the best of the bunch.

Obviously there's a long tradition behind this particular vein of literature, and the Club offers many more works in a similar vein. I gather they were written on request to satisfy particular fantasies, but they do inject some plot along with the sexual and sadistic acrobatics. (A5-49)

★★★★★

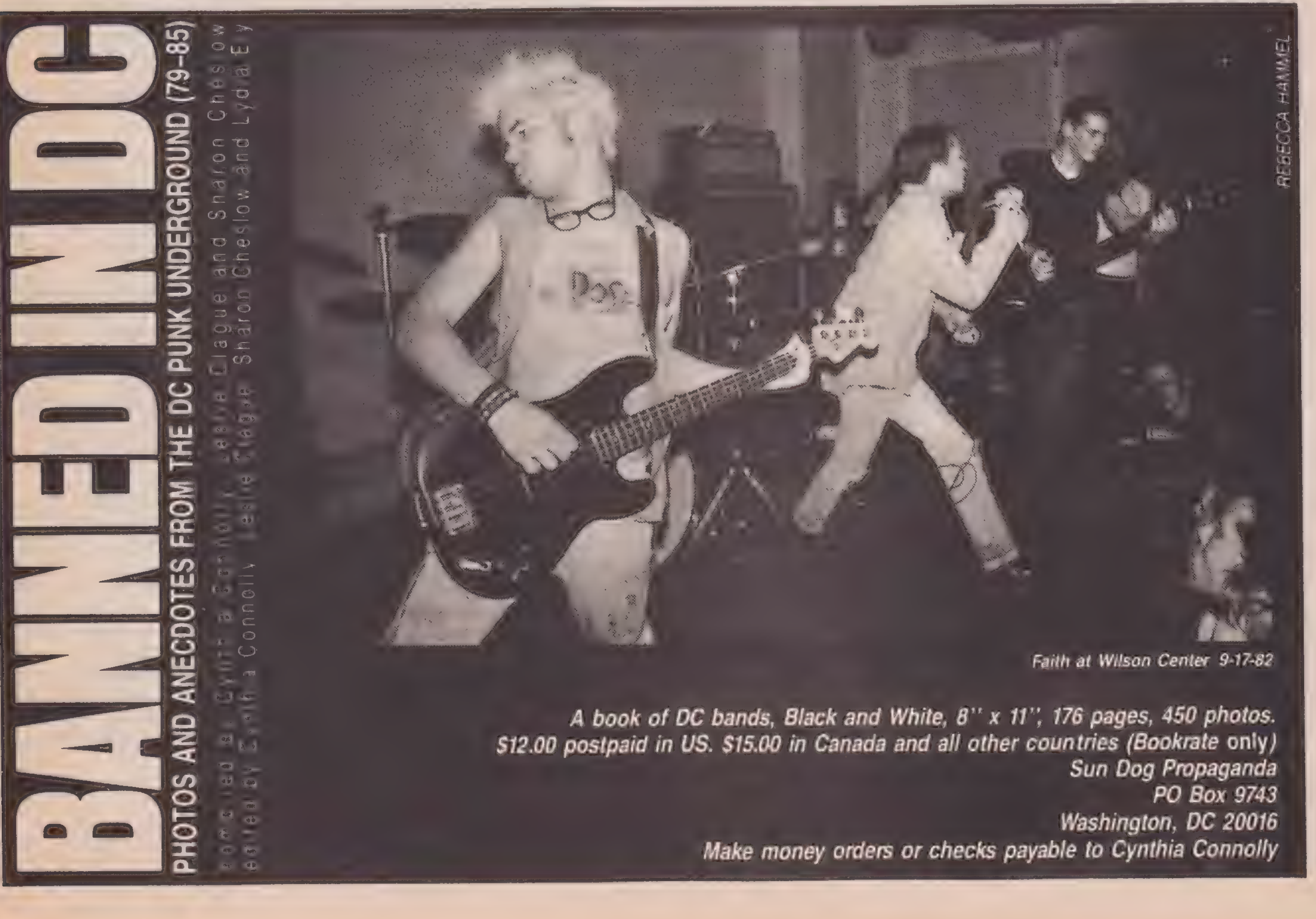
Alan Samagalski, **ARGENTINA: A TRAVEL SURVIVAL KIT** ($10.95 from Lonely Planet, Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): A refreshing change for a travel book. Though the author doesn't merely attack the country, he clearly points out its deficiencies: the moribund Buenos Aires, decades past its prime; how crammed with restaurants and shops is the spectacular Iguaçu Falls; and the dustiness of small villages. There's even a photograph of a plaza covered with ugly political graffiti. It's good to know where you're going, and this book tells you. In one of the few countries I ever felt afraid of, it's good to know something about the *desaparecidos*. (219 pp. tpb) (Guest review by Geof Huth)

★★★★★

Mitchell Schoen and William Herzberg, **BRAZIL: A TRAVEL SURVIVAL KIT** ($10.95 from Lonely Planet, Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): Another of Lonely Planet's travel guides, and it exhibits all the usual qualities and demerits of the series. The vocabulary guide is worthless since no American without an elementary knowledge of Portuguese would be able to pronounce the words correctly, but the authors note other options (language tapes, language classes in Brazil, trying vainly to get by with English). Down to earth, the Lonely Planet guides are always careful to tell you what to watch out for *and* what to see. And Brazil, one of the largest countries in the world, isn't treated as an undifferentiated whole: the different characters of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo are clearly delineated, as are those of the different geographic regions of the country. The authors recommend Omar and Jose if you need a haircut in Rio. (459 pp. tpb) (Guest review by Geof Huth)

★★★★★

Keith Seddon & Jocelyn Almond, **THE FACELESS TAROT** (£9.90 from Dunscaith Publishing Ltd., 28 West Lodge Ave., London W3 9SF, UK): This one is rather strange. It's a mystical novel set in the far future, in a pastoral age after the demise of machine-industrial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civilization. The protagonist is the young magician Eliseus Sebedeus, who gets enlisted by the Grim Reaper in an attempt to find the person who is screwing up the balance between life and death (death proves to be the good guys this time around). They do a Tarot reading to determine the path to the lawbreaker, and the cards seem to do most of the plotting for this book. There are scenes of magic and mysticism, love and battle, and an anti-industrial anti-work moral to cap it all off. (148pp. hc)

★★★★★

Richard Truhlar, **FIGURES IN PAPER TIME** ($9.95 from Mercury Press, PO Box 446, Stratford, ONT, N5A 6T3, CANADA): A dense and chewy book of experimental writing from Truhlar, who has done some good sound poetry as well as more usual music. "Dump" and "Tattoo" utilize a method of slightly-changing repetition, prose that seems not to get anywhere, but ends up telling a story—or trying to—nonetheless, like a series of movie frames projected as slides. Motion is not apparent from paragraph to paragraph, but it happens. The title story I do not know what to make of. It's thick with imagery, mainly of the body acting, but it doesn't gel for me. "Accretions" starts out as a post-nuclear survival story but gradually mutates, showing rather than telling us of the narrator cracking under the strain of trying to stay alive with all the rules changed. Challenging stuff. (80 pp. pb)

★★★★★

THE VIDEO-SIG LIBRARY ($4.95 from Video-SIG, 1030C E. Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086): A large-format paperback catalog of some of the more interesting tapes available from Video-SIG for $15 each. These include classic films (right back to Birth of a Nation), self-help, home improvement, new age, television series, and more. Canning tomatoes and Alyce Wittenstein's Betaville rub sprockets on the same page. Each film is rated, described and timed; a number also have comments from past customers, good and bad. A nice way to browse for inexpensive videotape entertainment. Indexed. (192 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Dale Andrew White, **ENCOUNTERS WITH AUTHORS** ($8.95 from Twin Rivers Press, PO Box 119, Ellenton, FL 34222): A collection of twenty interviews with authors (or sometimes those associated with authors, as with the theatrical producer of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap"), spanning the past decade of White's newspaper work. He ranges quite widely, from Anre Norton to Chaim Potok, Richard Adams to B.F. Skinner, Frank Slaughter to Larry McMurty. The chats are generally relaxed and pleasant, exploring the writers' lives as well as their work, and White remains unobtrusively in the background. You won't learn a whole lot about how to write here, not in so many words, but you will read a good deal about what current writers think they're up to. (S-128t)

★★★★★

BOOK NOTES

•**agAccess** (PO Box 2008, Davis, CA 95617) bill themselves as "The world's most complete stock of agricultural books". They cater to traditional as well as new tastes in agriculture, and offer research services as well. Their catalog features over 850 books, and should be available for a couple of bucks.

•**Bohica Concepts** (PO Box 546, Randle, WA 98377) sells books for "Patriots, Christians, & Survivalists". Besides manuals on improvised munitions and things like "Gorbachev! Has the Real Antichrist Come?", they carry a few odds and ends such as 90-round drums for your Mini-14 rifle. 7 •**Books Are Everything** (302 Martin Dr., Richmond, KY 40475) holds regular auctions of rare and classic paperback books. You can get on their mailing list for $5. They also maintain a separate catalog of books for sale.

•**The Crossing Press** (PO Box 1048, Freedom, CA 95019) publishes a number of cookbooks, with the emphasis on sound nutrition and useful recipes—there are, for example, several books of alternative desserts in their catalog.

•**Delectus Books** (27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3XX, UK) is a mail-order distributor off works from the Marquis de Sade, Sacher-Masoch, and other erotica. £1 and a large SAE will get you their catalog.

•**DC Books** (30 Clifford Dr., West Hartford, CT 06107) has recently put out its fourth catalog. They deal mainly in collectible SF paperbacks. SASE should land a copy.

•**Chris Drumm Books** (PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226) continues to bring out minicatalogs of new and used SF for sale, including his current releases. $1 will put you safely on the mailing list.

•**INTERNATIONAL BLACKLIST**'s 10th anniversary edition is scheduled to come out in January 1990. This directory to over 5000 anti-authoritarian groups and individuals should be available for $11.50 postpaid from Left Bank, 92 Pike St., Seattle, WA 98101.

•**Gary Kleier** (2134 McGee #B, Berkeley, CA 94703) is a mail-order dealer of first edition and other collectible SF & fantasy works, in the $12 to $500 price range. SASE for his latest catalog, I guess.

•**Loompanics** (PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368) has their winter catalog supplement out, with the latest in books from beyond the pale and an article on surviving the coming financial collapse. About $2 will put you on their catalog mailing list.

•**David McClintock** (PO Box 1949, Warren, OH 44482-1949) sells new and used SF and related books and collectors items, including rare editions of **AMAZING**, autographed Phil Farmer books, and so on. You can get his latest catalog for 25¢.

•**Jeffrey Meyerson** (8801 Shore Rd. #6A-East, Brooklyn, NY 11209) sells mysteries by mail. Lots of them. A few less than 700 of them in his latest list, for example. Prices start around $2 and stop short of astronomical. Send a buck to get on his mailing list.

•**New Society Publishers** (PO Box 582, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0582) put out a great many socially and politically responsible books, on topics from Central America to AIDS to investing. A nice request should land their next catalog mailing.

•**Nolo Press** (950 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94710) is "the leading publisher of self-help law books". For a buck you should be able to get their current catalog.

•**Phanes Press** (PO Box 6114, Grand Rapids, MI 49516) publishes many works in the Western mystical, spiritual, and philosophical traditions. Their editions seem to be of uniformly high quality and reasonable price. You can get a pamphlet describing their latest releases for an SASE. Watch for reviews of some of their stuff in the next FF.

•**Pulphouse Publishing** (PO Box 1227, Eugene, OR 97440) puts out a variety of limited edition sf and related books, often numbered, leather bound, or otherwise fancified. Send an SASE for their catalog.

•**Simmer Pot Press** (Route 3, Box 973-A, Boone, NC 28607) publishes and distributes a variety of offbeat cookbooks, from Freudian recipes to the Hunk cookbook to memoirs from 17th century cooking. You can get their 20-page catalog for $1.

•**A SOUTHERN LITERARY SOURCE BOOK** is being compiled by Dorothy Abbott (2001 Beach Dr. SE, St. petersburg, FL 33705). With NEA funding, she's putting together a guide to organizations, libraries, resources, newsletters, bookstores, and other bits of the literary network across the South, and would be interested in hearing from anyone with information to offer.

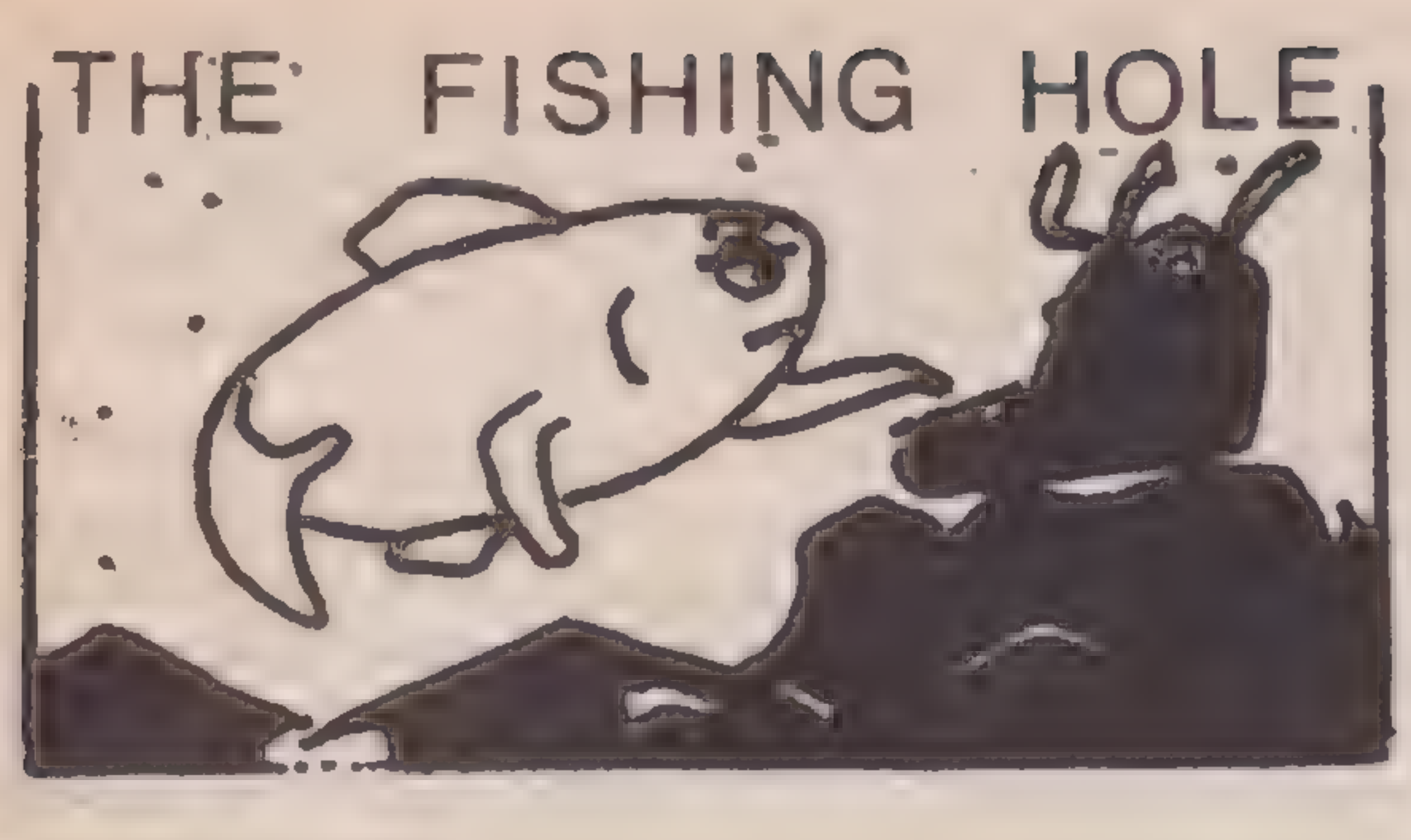
•**THE STARLIT MIRE** (£31.80 from Temple Press Ltd., c/o Rapid Eye, PO Box 23, Brighton, Sussex BN2 4AU, UK) is a limited-edition reproduction of an occult work by James Bertram and F. Russell, with illustrations by Austin Osman Spare.

•**Tiare Publications** (PO Box 493, Lake Geneva, WI 53147) has a new catalog, called "Great Radio Reads", out about their specialized shortwave and clandestine radio books. You can get a copy for $1.

•**Samuel Weiser, Inc.** *PO box 612, York Beach, ME 03910) is a major distributor of books on magick and the New Age and related topics. You can get on their mailing list for a buck.

•**Yes! Books** (PO Box 10726, Arlington, VA 22210) offers "Books & videos for inner growth". Their slick catalog covers ares like myths, body work, creativity, and "inner work". Copy on request, probably, considering how often they bombard me.

•**Mark Ziesing** (PO Box 76, Shingletown, CA 96088) is my favorite bookseller, the one I go to when I want cool stuff. He stocks a lot of SF from the best people in the field as well as a lot of the strange books I review in FF. And he tells you which ones are worth reading, and which are dogs to stay away from. Some people don't appreciate this honesty, but I do. He does special orders too. And puts out his own editions, like the Tim Powers book above. So anyways, send him a buck and ask for the latest catalog and see what you think.



by Joe "Kingfish" Lane

Welcome to the Fishing Hole, a new column devoted to discussing zines and alternative press today as well as the history of the Underground Press of the past. In upcoming issues I hope to write on the subjects you, the zine editors and writers are most interested in: yourselves and the history of those who preceded you. TO start with, I am the former editor (or as my friend Ian Blackburn from the Lame Monkey Manifesto says "an edituh") of the Tunnel Times/Window and therefore can be considered more than a casual observer. Now with all that out of the way, on to this issue's column.

THE UNDERGROUND AND THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Freedom of the press is one of our rights according to the 1st Amendment of the Constitution and possibly the most important power citizens have in protecting them from those who are elected to serve them, the politicians.

"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press." the 1st Amendment said. But is this an absolute right? No. Certain subjects such as libelous statements and pornography are not guaranteed freedom by the 1st Amendment. The printing of juvenile's names or the names of children involved in child abuse cases are also off limits (it's not so much that they're illegal for the press to report as it is for the police to release the names).

While on the subject of freedom of the press, it would be wise to take a look at a certain type of journalism that has not always been afforded the equal protection and treatment of many of our daily newspapers: the underground (or as it is called today, the alternative) press.

The Underground Press dates back to the first American paper, Publick Occurances, Both Foreign and Domestick, published by Benjamin Harris. The reason for including Harris' paper is that it was critical of the government (British, that is) and printed the truth as the editor saw fit. It was repressed for those two reasons. The same thing would happen to other papers in the 1960s and thereafter.

While most mainstream papers have managed to keep clear of objectionable material such as that described above, the underground press in the 1960s and later tended to use whatever things it deemed necessary to get the message across.

The underground press ran stories dealing with demonstrations against the war in Vietnam, drugs and their uses, and sexual liberation, among other things. It also used the same language as its audience (usually considered obscenities by the authorities, cops and—supposedly—"anyone over thirty", as the saying went) and was usually denied much press freedom.

The modern underground press history starts with the founding of the Los Angeles Free Press, or Freep as it became known, in 1964. Arthur Kunkin, the founder, started the paper with $15 and by 1969 the Freep had a circulation of 95,000. The next year, the Underground Press Directory listed 671 underground newspapers and magazines across the country and abroad as members in the Underground Press Syndicate.

In 1969 Kunkin and the Freep became defendants in a lawsuit over an expose of sorts. The Freep had published a Christmas list of names, addresses and phone numbers of eighty undercover narcotics agents in California.

The list containing the information about the narcotics agents was a photocopy of an office memo from the California State Attorney General's office given to the Freep by a mail clerk from that office. The state filed a $10 million obstruction of justice suit against the paper while the agents filed a $15 million lawsuit for invasion of privacy.

At the trial, Deputy Attorney General Ronald George, one of the prosecuting attorneys, claimed that the photocopied list was the property of the state and since it was removed from the offices of the state it should be considered stolen. And since the Freep had entitled the story with the list "Secret Report", the prosecutor argued, it proved the author knew he was receiving stolen property, which is a felony.

The defense countered, by testimony of the clerk who supplied the list, Jerry Resnick, that Kunkin did not know the material was stolen. It was also argued that the list indicated in no way that it was secret or classified information. Also the defense argued that newspapers have the right to dig out information that the government arbitrarily withholds.

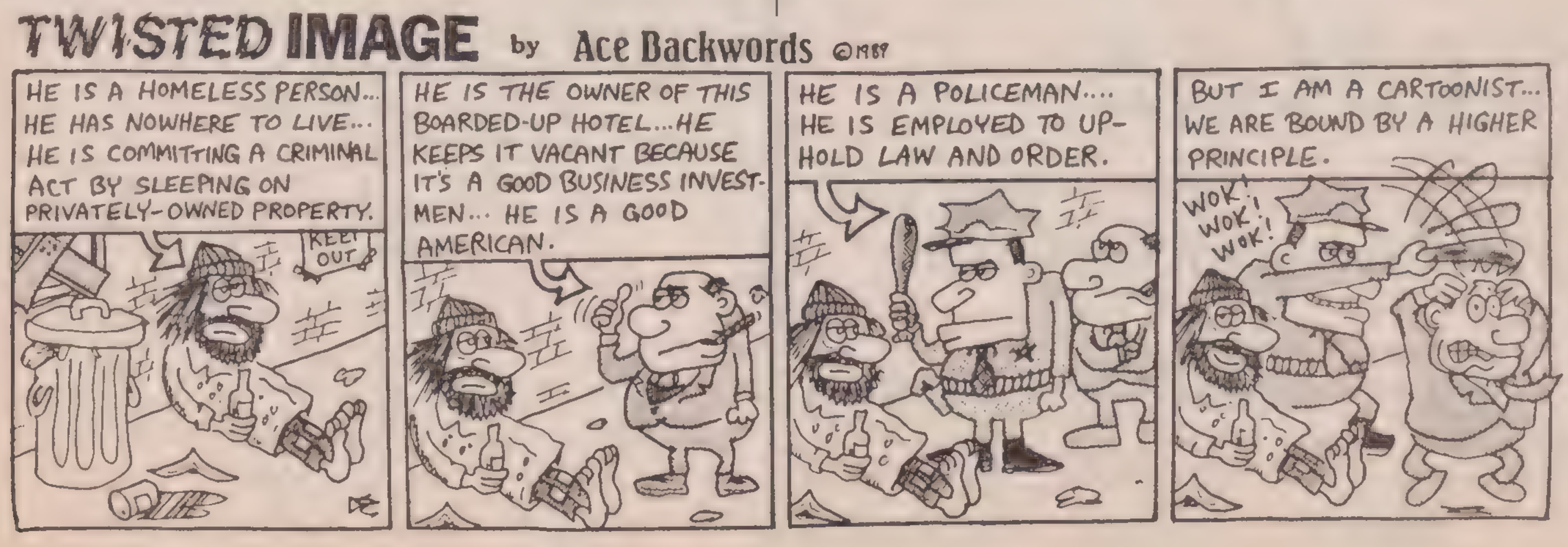
The jury sided with the prosecution but the judge awarded fines of only $1,000 to Kunkin, $5,000 to the reporter, Jerry Appelbaum, who received the list, and a suspended $500 fine to the Freep. Kunkin settled out of court the obstruction of justice suit for $10,000 and the criminal verdicts were later overturned on appeal. It could not be proved that Kunkin knew the material was stolen when he accepted it for publication.

This was a major step in press freedom in that, though considered radical and not an issue in the trials, it took full advantage of the New York Times vs. Sullivan decision in 1962. In this decision, the Supreme Court said a public official or figure had to prove libel by showing that the publisher must know falsity and have malice in printing a false account of a public figure. This decision has led to the right of news gatherers to cover private areas of officials' lives without having to worry about invasion of privacy—only about truth.

Invasion of privacy is considered to be the intrusion on someone's personal solitude. If the press could not cover a public figure's personal life, the Gary Hart/Monkey Business story would have never been released by the Miami newspaper (unless it had lots of libel insurance).

Police and federal authorities, however, did not even need real laws to bust underground publishers and even violated quite a few in trying to shut down the papers.

In October 1968, the underground newspaper Dallas Notes was raided by police who claimed they were searching for pornographic materials. They left the paper's office with back issues, four typewriters, credit cards, costume jewelry, and two cans of spice—and wrecked the office in the process.


TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwords ©1989
HE IS A HOMELESS PERSON... HE HAS NOWHERE TO LIVE... HE IS COMMITTING A CRIMINAL ACT BY SLEEPING ON PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY.
KEEP OUT
HE IS THE OWNER OF THIS BOARDED-UP HOTEL...HE KEEPS IT VACANT BECAUSE IT'S A GOOD BUSINESS INVESTMEN... HE IS A GOOD AMERICAN.
HE IS A POLICEMAN.... HE IS EMPLOYED TO UPHOLD LAW AND ORDER.
BUT I AM A CARTOONIST... WE ARE BOUND BY A HIGHER PRINCIPLE.
WOK! WOK! WOK!

NEW VINYL $6 ppd

"FEE-AY-DOR"!
"FEE-AY-DOR"!
"FEE-AY-DOR"!

LITTLE FYODOR

BENEATH THE UBER-PUTZ

"To the sheltered psyche it could be frightening, or revelatory, to experience so forceful a hanging-out of the dirty laundry of neuroses, insecurities, and human fears that Little Fyodor aptly does"

(apocalyptic industrial psychedelia)

naram sin

daisies

please send for catalog

Small Tools Tradition
P.O. Box 8005, Suite 239,
Boulder, Colorado, 80306-8005

In November the police raided the office again to search for drugs, and when they couldn't find any, arrested publisher Burt Steiner for obscenity. Needless to say the police denied they were repressing the paper. "Everything was in order. We aren't going to be guilty of tearing up anyone's property," Lt. Truman Snider, leader of the raid, said.

Street vendors were often a main target of police who had no legal right to censor the papers, which is what they tried anyways. The police acted in such a way as to say "If we can't stop publication, we can stop people from being able to read the papers."

Boston's Avatar experienced 58 arrests of its people who sold papers in such a manner as the street sellers or newsboys did in those old films about the 1930s. Police claimed the papers were obscene and they felt they had the right to arrest the vendors.

Other vendors had been arrested for peddling without a license, littering (which the police used as an excuse to rough the vendor up while arresting him) and other minor infringements.

Some form of repression of the underground press came from mainstream journalism's indifference to those whom the underground press served. In other words, the underground press served an audience that the mainstream ignored.

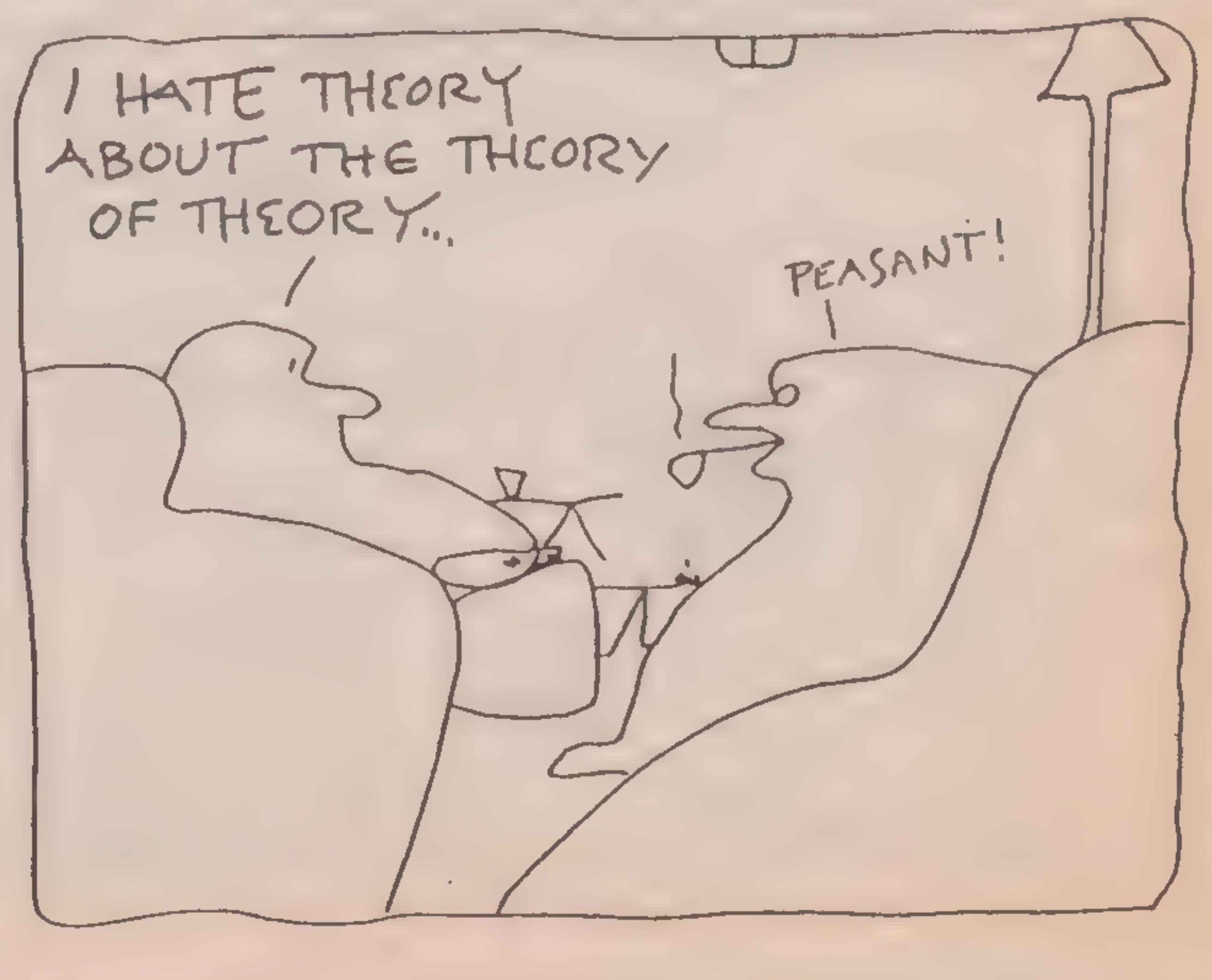
Some printers began to refuse to print underground newspapers. One who didn't was Bill Schanen. In 1970 Schanen was publishing three mainstream papers and printing the Milwaukee-based underground Kaleidoscope. When it became widely known that Schanen was printing the underground paper, Schanen's own paper, the Ozaukee Press, became the subject of a boycott. He eventually lost two of his papers and $200,000 over the issue. In February 1971, Schanen died of a heart attack. Throughout his ordeal, he continued to print the Kaleidoscope, right up to his death.

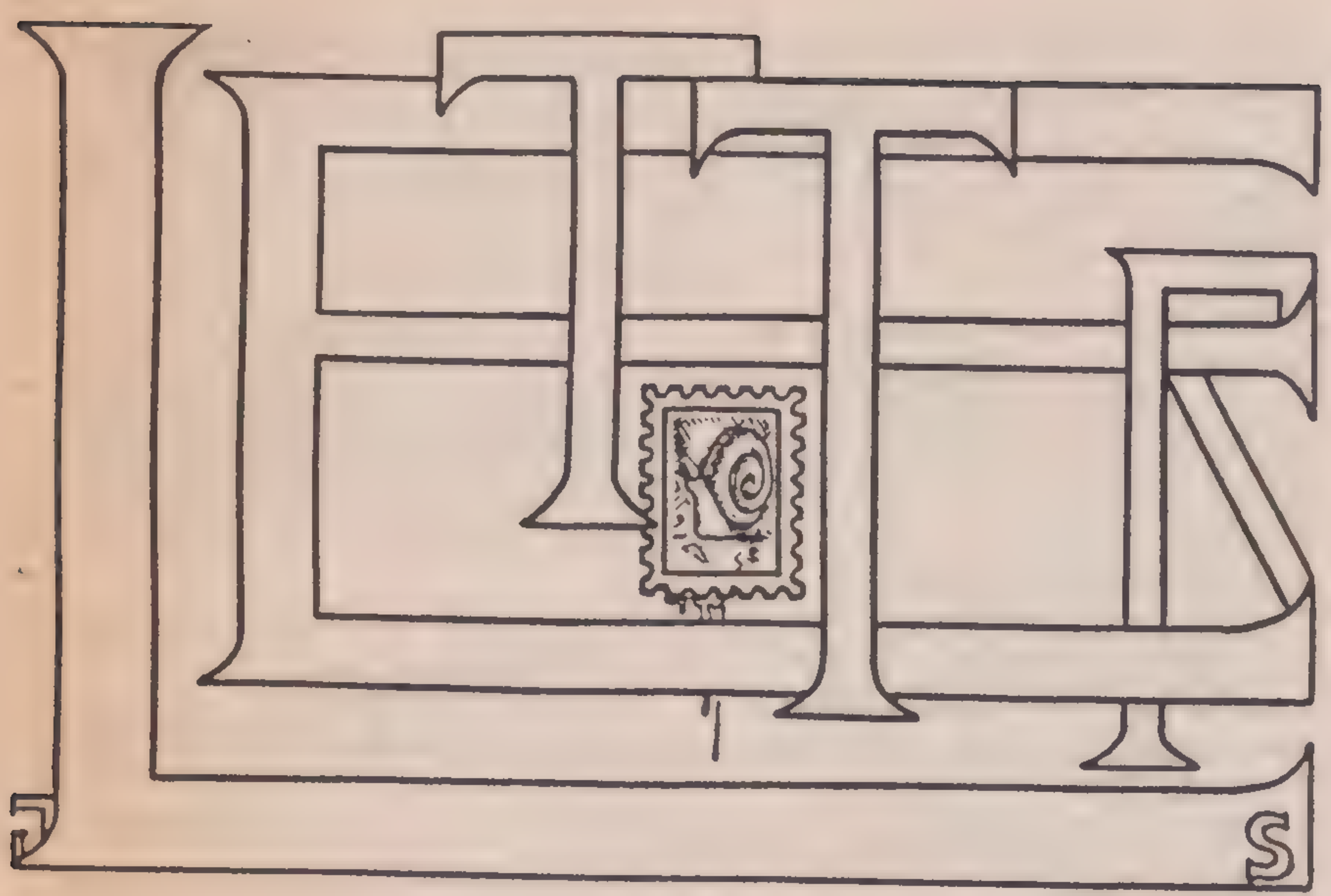
The Kaleidoscope became the subject of another threat to the underground, which colleges and the Post Office alike partook in. When one of the paper's photographers was arrested for possessing nude photographs, the paper printed similar photos to those possessed by the arrested staff member. In a later issue the paper ran a poem describing its author's feelings during sexual intercourse. The paper's publisher was sentenced to two years in prison for obscenity. Later the Supreme Court reversed the decision, stating that the photos were relevant to the story of the photographer and that the poem in question was an attempt at serious art and that both were protected by the 1st Amendment.

The Post Office clamped down on the second class postage rate sought by many underground papers because of its rules on obscenity. Basically the papers had to pay the much higher rates of first class postage to bypass the obscenity rules, making it less profitable to distribute the papers by mail. In 1975, the Great Speckled Bird in Atlanta went to a free circulation format. It was then forced to mail copies at the special third class rate. This change caused the cost of the mailing from $16 a week to jump to $70, putting another rock around the neck of the then dying paper.

These are just a few of the problems encountered by the alternative press in the past, trying to print with the ever present chance of censorship and censureship.

I hope to write on the problems faced today in the zine field, as to publishing and censorship, getting kicked out of the printer's office, and the like. Those of you publishing can send me information about your "Worst Hassle Since Becoming a Publisher" for future columns. I can be contacted at Joe Lane, PO Box 4083, Terre Haute, IN 47804-4083.


I HATE THEORY ABOUT THE THEORY OF THEORY...
PEASANT!



Here's the deal...we're in the process of launching a 24 hour comedy network, affectionately known as The Comedy Channel. Out schedule is broken down into hosted blocks of time during which comedy clips are shown. These clips are culled from old sitcoms, old movies, new movies, old training films, cartoons, HBO's Original Programming Dept., etc. The clips are our "meat and potatoes." Above and beyond that anything goes, hosts can do basically anything they want.

What I'm getting at is that there is a tremendous opportunity here to explore the 'fringe'. I think this can be done in a number of ways...remote shoots, book reviews, small press news features, music reviews, inviting guests into the studio, etc....

The point is that I'm open to anything and would be happy to review material by mail from any of those people/groups that you come in contact with. I realize that that is a very broad and diverse group, so be it.

Donick M. Cary
The Comedy Channel
Home Box Office, Inc.
1100 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

★★★★★

I'm seeking people who'd be interested in a 7 year project to buy land where a pantheistic temple would be built. The tract of land bought would be large enough so each shareholder could have his own autonomy and solitude. Our shareholding of the land and our common use of the temple/shrine as the nominal spiritual seat, would be the extent of our organization.

I, with the other Irregulars, hope to provide a sanctuary for those who see the solitude of their being as the wellspring of spiritual enlightenment and salvation. In this community I hope to make it possible for people who need "the space" to pursue, in parallel coexistence with others, their existential imperatives.

People in the community (those interested in this concept) can write to me at the below address.

Merlin Harper
De Irregular
PSC3 Box 16142
APO SF, CA 96432-0006

★★★★★

Could you please inform your readership that if they would like to receive one of our questionnaires, simple request one via mail?

They can then be given a *free listing* in the 1991 edition of **HUMOR AND CARTOON MARKETS**. In the questionnaire, they may solicit cartoons, comic strips, drawings, articles, fiction, non-fiction—anything they want! We plan to begin a totally new section in the book called "Experimental/Non-pay/Zines/Small Press."

Bob Staake
HUMOR AND CARTOON MARKETS
1009 S. Berry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

★★★★★

I'm writing in regard to your response to a reader who was concerned about a possibly sexist cover you printed. I have to admit first off that I didn't even see the cover; I don't know that it would have even bothered me. What did bother me was your *response*. I'd really expected an analysis of more substance from you. Instead you did a "nude-body count", and then deduced that arithmetic balance was not skewed enough for you to call your cover sexist. C'mon, Mike! This is absurd. First of all, whether that *particular* cover was sexist has *no relation* to whether your other covers are, or are not. Images, as you know, contain messages of a sort—the question is what kind of message did your cover convey? Secondly, a nude woman is not necessarily a sexist picture of a woman. Depends on what it was—was it fetishistic? Did it show her in a (typically supine) passive, objectified light, or as a *subject*, acting on the world, rather than being acted on? Finally, your 2nd to last paragraph explaining that it just happens to be the cover art that is sent to you is a total cop-out. Are you really saying that if all you received in cover art was the most offensive, blatantly-bigoted art possible that you would have no "choice" but to print it? This "balance" idea has got to go—it's dangerously misleading. If you have sexist covers of women and empowering covers of men in an *equal ratio*, you'd still be sexist. Have you read Erving Goffman's **GENDER ADVERTISEMENTS**? As a disseminator of printed images, maybe you should try to be more informed about the images you are disseminating.

By the way, speaking of sexism, was the advertisement for "The International Patriarchy" a joke? Would you have printed a ½ page ad for "The International Brotherhood of Aryan Races" that advertised possibilities of obtaining (legal) black slaves (niggers)? I thought you had decided not to print hate literature—did that exclude *women-hating* literature? I know you have a problem with censorship, but I think feeling as though the answer is that you *personally* have to therefore print *everything* in your own magazine is taking things too far.

Marietta Angelotti

/* This is only one of the many letters I've gotten on the subject of "cover sexism"; I'm answering it because it brings up the most points and challenges me the most. I should note right off that the majority of those who wrote got upset at me because they felt that I should have simply defended that cover as non-sexist; most of these people were men. But as far as I'm concerned, *that's not the point!* One particular cover is only a live issue for two months. What concerns me is the *pattern* of covers, the impact of the whole series. That's what my body count was intended to get at, in admittedly rough terms.

I must admit that as far as I can tell it is completely impossible to determine whether a cover is "sexist" or not. I know from experience that *any* cover with a woman on it, in whatever clothing or position, will be condemned by some as sexist. Conversely, I've never had such a complaint about any of the male figures on my cover (or other stereotypes, for that matter—what about the anarchist punk blowing up the buildings a couple of years ago? No problem.) We all seem to have been programmed to respond to images in various ways, and one way we respond (at least if we've been exposed to the right-thinking liberal point of view) is that pictures of women are sexist. Period.

I happen to think that this is nonsense. But I do think that if an editor is using mostly or entirely pictures of women to sell a magazine, something is wrong. I don't think I do this. But being aware of what the ratio is between men and women (and aliens and funny animals) on my covers is is one way to keep an eye on the situation. The issue is not, as Marietta correctly notes, simply one of numerical balance; the way in which different people are portrayed on the cover also makes a difference. It does seem obvious that there are some pictures which the vast majority will perceive as sexist—the infamous bondage pictures from **PENTHOUSE** in 1986, for example. I trust that I have not put any such pictures on the cover of **FACTSHEET FIVE**.

As to only using what my artists send me—no, there are things that I wouldn't put on the cover, even if they were only choice. I mention that to show that the imbalance, whether it exists or not, whether it's important or not, is not solely a matter of my own creation. For whatever reason, the great majority of artists use women as central figures on their cover art. Programming? Sexism? I don't know.

I haven't read Goffman's book. Looking at the mountain of small press items waiting for review, I doubt that I ever will. But I'll keep an eye out for a copy, just in case.

Now, as for the International Patriarchy ad—as far as I can tell, they're serious. My major problem with them is not that they are sexist (which they are, by any reasonable definition), but that seem to be a scam, delivering very poor value for the money they demand. But I'd still take their ad again (perhaps with a consumer warning attached). [Further developments make it unlikely that I will have to worry about this—see the letter from Arne Saknussem below.] And I would probably take an ad from a white supremecist group, or from the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, or from the band Psychodrama (perhaps more realistic examples). **FACTSHEET FIVE** exists to link readers up with things they are interested in reading. It doesn't matter whether you or I think these are things that they ought to be reading. I will not put myself in the position of telling my readers that there are things they are not allowed to know about (except in certain extremely rare cases where legal liability forces me to do so). While my own political views are radical to liberal, those of many of my readers are not. Some are conservative, some are far right (whatever that means). I want to be fair to their views, even when I think those views are wrong—because I'm never completely convinced that mine are right.

And just to reiterate a policy change—I will review hate literature these days, clearly noting what it contains. It's out there. I won't ignore it. I won't deprive my readers of the chance to get their own copy and make up their own mind. This is another case where the pattern matters more than the individual case. There is a quite clear pattern in this society of certain views being repressed. I don't want to be a part of that dangerous precedent. So I'll even bend over backwards to be fair, making my advertising space available to odious groups like the International Patriarchy. I don't really expect that they'll convince many of my readers. In fact, I suspect they will crumble more quickly exposed to the light of public opinion and ridicule than they will if shoved into a back room and allowed to develop a martyr mentality. */

★★★★★

I get really weary of reading brainless comments like Ruth Ellis's in the letter section [of FF32]. Where did the feminists get this ridiculous idea that in order for the sexes to be equal they have to be treated exactly the same? There are in fact very real biological differences between the sexes. There are in fact very real biological reasons WHY naked women will always be more prominent than naked men. I'll give Ms. Ellis a hint: It has to do with the very act of procreation. This feminist notion that human sexuality is primarily a matter of social conditioning that can be altered as if it's simply a matter of reprimanding poor table manners, merely points out the banal level of thinking within the feminist movement.

Ace Backwords

/* If I don't say something here some readers will think I agree with Ace's theory (which, according to one of his comics, is that "Men cannot have sex unless they are first aroused by the sight of the woman, while the woman can have sex aroused or not"). I don't, but I'm willing to let him try to make his point (and probably be skewered on it). */

★★★★★

You might want to remind your readers that are in prison that sources such as "Ed Zolna" and "Chris Duffy", with just a name, TDC will reject as unauthorized sources. Just the name I guess isn't seen as a publisher.

Patrick Hodges

/* TDC stands for Texas Department of Corrections, but the problem is much more widespread than that.Many state prison systems demand that books and magazine be mailed "directly from the publisher", and refuse to count people as publishers. One way around this is to get envelopes printed with a return address such as "Factsheet Five Books & Magazines"; this has worked for me, though not with TDC. (But they have to be printed; a handwritten address like that doesn't work.) */

★★★★★

I had to laugh when I read your review of **MONEY MAKING MARKETING**. So someone wrote to ask if I was the "sort of huckster who gives adult education a bad name." I certainly appreciate your commendatory response and your good review of this book, I'd like to add something, however.

I'm dedicated—in my books, columns, Special Reports, workshops, audio cassettes and catalog (which collectively now reach over 1.5 million people monthly)—to helping people make money. It seems to me that this unadulterated capitalism upsets and even offends certain of your readers who have an astonishing squeamishness about money—making it, having it or seeing anybody else with any.

Here, then, is my challenge: I invite all of your readers who are not afraid of making money, having a better lifestyle and getting their products and services into the hands of the greatest number of people to contact me and get a FREE YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to my quarterly Sure-Fire Business Success Catalog. Every 90 days it offers at least 125 ways to make your business more profitable and make more money.

Finally, remember: if you believe that your product or service will improve the lives of others, you have a moral obligation to do everything you can to bring it to the attention of those who can benefit from it. Snide comments, a feeling that "marketing is beneath me" and just plain stupidity won't help.

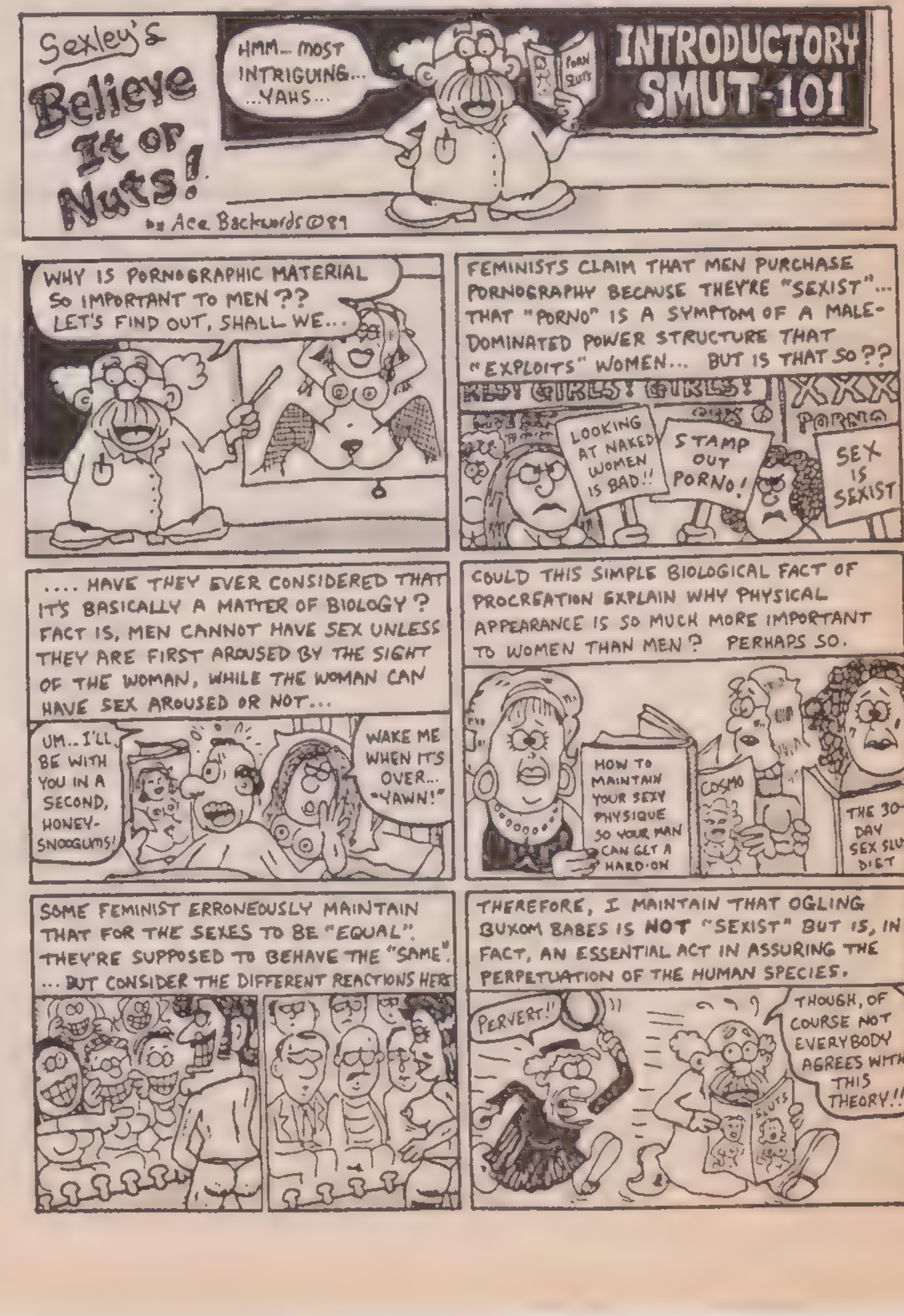
I'm looking forward to hearing from the bright, get-ahead people in your readership. The rest can enjoy the corrosive atmosphere they create for themselves...and want for others.

Jeffrey Lant, Ph.D.

/* Hell, sometimes *I* get a tad upset at your unadulterated capitalism. But I certainly admire your steamroller approach to it; you've obviously made up your mind that you'll do well whatever you do. And I'll also admit that there are some ideas I've taken from the Jeffrey Lant books and implemented in marketing **FF**. I do pick and choose—but I won't condemn. */

★★★★★

I've just picked up your magazine for the first time at the Primal Plunge bookstore here and I commend you for being open minded in your listing. It seems to me that the other so called anarchist magazines are really socialist and damn everything that doesn't fit their narrow left wing worldview. I especially appreciate your including the gun rights organizations, We aren't all rednecks. The most serious threat to our already diminishing freedom are the current attempts to ban semi-automatic firearms in the midst of the media generated anti-gun hysteria. If the government has a monopoly on the tools of coercive force, its authority will be impossible to


Sexley's
Believe It or Nuts!
by Ace Backwords ©89
HMM... MOST INTRIGUING... ...YAHS...
PORN SLUTS
INTRODUCTORY SMUT-101
WHY IS PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL SO IMPORTANT TO MEN?? LET'S FIND OUT, SHALL WE...
FEMINISTS CLAIM THAT MEN PURCHASE PORNOGRAPHY BECAUSE THEY'RE "SEXIST"... THAT "PORNO" IS A SYMPTOM OF A MALE-DOMINATED POWER STRUCTURE THAT "EXPLOITS" WOMEN... BUT IS THAT SO??
GIRLS! GIRLS!
XXX
PORNO
LOOKING AT NAKED WOMEN IS BAD!!
STAMP OUT PORNO!
SEX IS SEXIST
.... HAVE THEY EVER CONSIDERED THAT IT'S BASICALLY A MATTER OF BIOLOGY? FACT IS, MEN CANNOT HAVE SEX UNLESS THEY ARE FIRST AROUSED BY THE SIGHT OF THE WOMAN, WHILE THE WOMAN CAN HAVE SEX AROUSED OR NOT...
UM.. I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A SECOND, HONEY-SNOOGUMS!
WAKE ME WHEN IT'S OVER... "YAWN!"
COULD THIS SIMPLE BIOLOGICAL FACT OF PROCREATION EXPLAIN WHY PHYSICAL APPEARANCE IS SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO WOMEN THAN MEN? PERHAPS SO.
HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR SEXY PHYSIQUE SO YOUR MAN CAN GET A HARD-ON
COSMO
THE 30-DAY SEX SLUT DIET
SOME FEMINIST ERRONEOUSLY MAINTAIN THAT FOR THE SEXES TO BE "EQUAL". THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BEHAVE THE "SAME". ... BUT CONSIDER THE DIFFERENT REACTIONS HERE
THEREFORE, I MAINTAIN THAT OGLING BUXOM BABES IS NOT "SEXIST" BUT IS, IN FACT, AN ESSENTIAL ACT IN ASSURING THE PERPETUATION OF THE HUMAN SPECIES.
PERVERT!!
THOUGH, OF COURSE NOT EVERYBODY AGREES WITH THIS THEORY!!
SLUTS

overcome (Panama and China have gun control). I don't think this threat is taken seriously or even acknowledged by most anarchists or libertarians. Your magazine is the first I've seen in the alternative press to make any mention of it. Don't freedom loving people realize that without the second amendment right to guns the rest of the Bill of Rights won't mean shit because we won't be able to defend them? If the authoritarians of the left & right (George Bush the back stabber and Howard Metzenbaum the do gooder) have their way, freedom of the press can't be far behind. I suspect the gun ban is the first step to making the population a mass of obedient poodles, which is the real agenda, not a crime/drug free society as they piously claim.

Dick

★★★★★

I appreciate the listing for **THE ORWELLIAN TIMES** *but* I'm *not* a "conservative". To conserve is to save. DO you want to save this criminal system that we have?

Does the Declaration of independence say we should conserve tyrannical government of "abolish" it??

THE ORWELLIAN TIMES was formerly **THE NEOABOLITIONIST** (title confused some).

I'm an abolitionist, not a damned conservative!

Winston Smith

★★★★★

In response to Jay S. Gertz's request for info on mail-order record distributors, the last I knew Subterranean (PO Box 2530, Berkeley, CA 94702) had a very thorough mail-order catalog of indies from many labels (including their own). I don't know the cost of a catalog, but assuming they made it through the earthquake OK, they should be able to help.

Carol A. Schneck

★★★★★

Roundup Records is the premier mail-order dealer in independent-label folk, blues, jazz, roots-rock, reggae and ethnic music. (They do handle some punk/new wave material, including the Enigma and Slash labels). They publish an encyclopedic catalog annually and also a periodic review of new releases called **THE RECORD ROUNDUP**. You can get a sample of each by sending $2 to Roundup Records, PO Box 154, North Cambridge, MA 02140.

Herb Ashe

★★★★★

In response the the letter from Jay S. Gertz requesting the mail order addresses for certain independent record labels, I would like to inform FF readers of the following: I am in the process of putting together "Sound Affect", a comprehensive reference guide for independent labels and artists. It will include hundreds of labels and thousands of artists cross-referenced for easy location. "Sound Affect" will be issued early in 1990. Interested readers, labels, and performers can obtain more information with a SASE sent to me.

Patrick A. Rivelli
PAR Publications
PO Box 18954-0954
Baltimore, MD 21206

I'm doing an international tape traders list and am looking for people to be in it. Everyone who wants his name and address to be on it, just has to send me their list & their main wants. For the moment I have about 100 addresses, but as I only recently started this I expect to get much more in the future. This list will be available postpaid anywhere for $1.

Kris Verreth
Tervuursestwg 1H
B-3081 Perk
BELGIUM

★★★★★

I'm starting a publication to be called **FUNNY PAGES**, and I need help from your readers. Everybody hears jokes. What I'm asking is that they grab a pencil, jot them down & send them to me along with a SASE. I'll compile what I receive and send copies to the contributors. Anyone else can get a copy for $1 & SASE.

Any type of humor will do. Send office posters, interesting graffiti, cartoons (your own, not something clipped from a book), funny stories, amusing anecdotes, embarrassing personal incidents, ethnic jokes (Hey, I never hear any jokes about white people. They gotta exist! Send 'em in), tasteless jokes...you get the idea. I'm hoping for a mixture of material to both delight and offend.

Joe Workman
154 S. Hedges St.
Dayton, OH 45403

★★★★★

I have gone through the mag section of **FS5** and submitted to many mags and have *never!* heard back from anybody. How common an experience is this? It's quite discouraging. I begin to doubt that some of these mags even exist.

Greg Evason

★★★★★

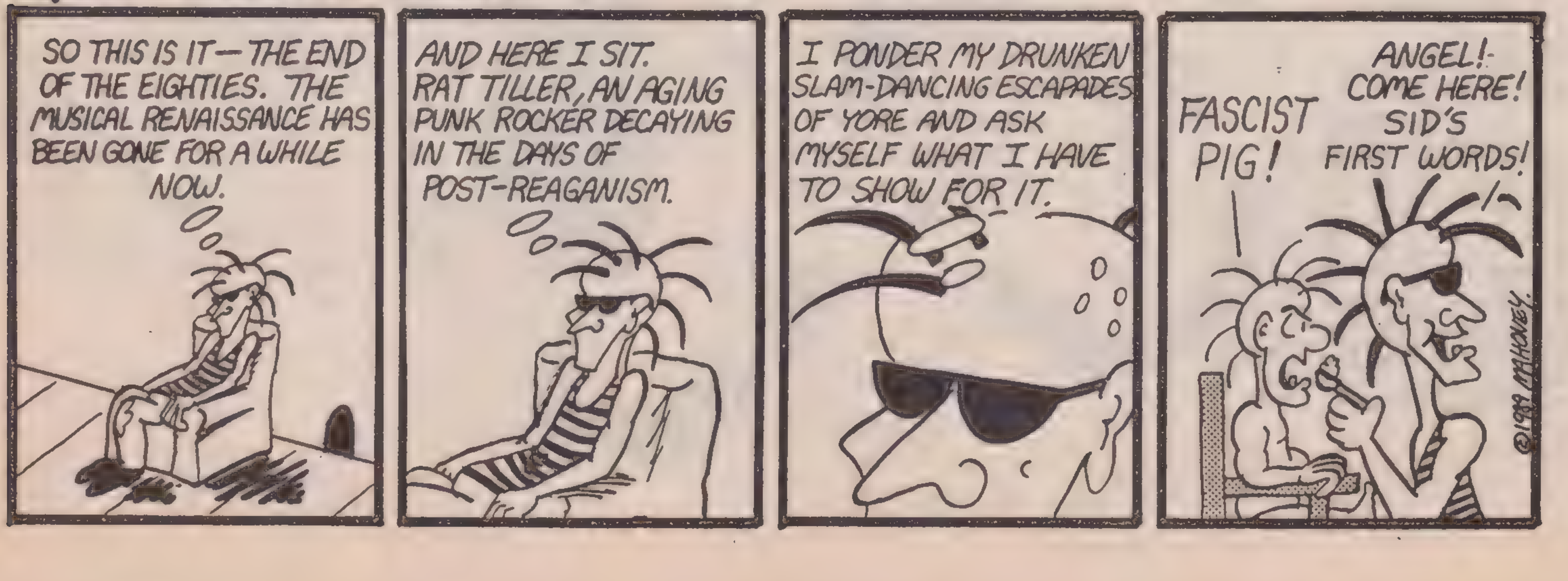
I just wanted to clear something up with a couple of people who saw my stuff listed in FF 30, ordered and did not get anything. I don't want these people to think I took their money and ran because I'm not that kind of a person. I would hope that most zine people are trustworthy about getting their publications out to those who have sent for them. Over the past summer, I received orders for comics and used the money to LIVE because I was unemployed and bouncing back and forth between friends' apartments due to my mom kicking me out of the house. I don't want to sound like a hardluck story or anything I just want to do what's right. I've lost the orders and I have no idea WHO even wanted WHAT. I guess I'm asking people to be honest and understanding and to get back to me about zines they have NOT received.

Doug Chapel
38 Reservoir St.
Holden, MA 01520

★★★★★

Um, hello there everyone in zine land. Remember a humble little alternative publication cleverly named **ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW?** Well, if you do you're no doubt wondering exactly what in the hell ever became of it and are also, if you, perhaps, have written to APOV in the last *year* or so, no doubt rather incensed at the seeming

Good Clean Fun


SO THIS IS IT—THE END OF THE EIGHTIES. THE MUSICAL RENAISSANCE HAS BEEN GONE FOR A WHILE NOW.
AND HERE I SIT. RAT TILLER, AN AGING PUNK ROCKER DECAYING IN THE DAYS OF POST-REAGANISM.
I PONDER MY DRUNKEN SLAM-DANCING ESCAPADES OF YORE AND ASK MYSELF WHAT I HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT.
FASCIST PIG!
ANGEL! COME HERE! SID'S FIRST WORDS!
©1989 MAHONEY

insensitivity and inconsideration of the editor/publisher for not replying. Well, the unfortunate and highly regrettable truth is that **APOV** is and has been temporarily on hiatus until further notice....

Anyway, I hope I haven't made any permanent enemies as a result of my negligence but, hey, I can only brunt so much. Never fear, though, because as I transcribe this letter a plan is in motion *not only* to resurrect **APOV** but to *respond* to the enormous backlog of mail sitting around my house....**ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW** is slated to become the official newsletter/spokeszine for Positive Force Chicago, which should be pretty self-explanatory...Contact Shawn McFadden at 507 W. Marion St., Prospect Hts., IL, 60070 to get involved...

Todd Brown c/o ioqj
718 Clark 3E
Evanston, IL 60201

/* There was a lot more apology, but I had to edit for space. Sorry, Todd. */

★★★★★

Say—wouldn't it be a good idea to print a **FF** listing by *geographic* order, since so many zines are local? I'd sure hang on to the issue for reference purposes! Think about it.

Brendan Doherty

/* I think it's a great idea, but I suspect my readers would kill me. Meanwhile, if you want to know what's in your own area, you can get a printout from the address list for 3¢ a name. */

★★★★★

I want you to be the first to know of a long-term project I've just decided to take on: **THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN SEMI-MILLENIAL FAKEBOOK AND OTHER AMERICA TIMELINE**: A ragged and motley chronotopology of American history between the lines and beyond the pale; a temporal sequence of beamings from the cracks; the grand panoramic sweep of a midway plaisance packing them in (them, us, at least one born every minute); to chart a few of the mad jazz patterns that percolate out of underground cultural meme-forms and outstanding eccentricities, in the spirit of the short history of Jes Grew in Chap. 52 of Ishmael Ree's **MUMBO JUMBO**; dense and dazzling and profusely illustrated...

You get to help in any way that please you: names, dates, bits of text, images, ideas, suggestions, artifacts, facts, fables, rumors and legends, maps, theories, charms and spells, songs, poems, jingles, chants, rants and rambles, hazardous guesses and unreasonable arguments, coded messages, pranks, hoaxes, brief intrusions of the marvelous into the everyday life of the diverse cultures of the Americas...

Access to roots for dangerous punks.

James Koehnline
7750 Long Ave.
Skokie, IL 60077

★★★★★

I'm interested in creating 4-track music by mail with anyone having a compatible machine (Tascam with DBX). I'd also like to correspond with home tapers to exchange tips/ideas etc., and I am also accepting lyrics to put to music for upcoming tapes. I will also send my lyrics out to others in exchange for a copy of the finished project.

Scott "Lime" Johnson
465 3rd SE
Huron, SD 57350

★★★★★

If you are a cartoonist who is a cancer survivor or who would be willing to visually interpret the stories of cancer survivors, I would love to hear from you!

I am putting together a comic book for cancer patients and people who would like to read about cancer patients. The main aim is to entertain and amuse sick people. Stories should be humorous and upbeat and can satirize any aspect of cancer tratements...keep in mind that we want to show people how to deal with cancer with a sense of humor. It's a serious funny book we're after—no downbeat, relentlessly frightening, negative stuff.

Donna Marie Nowak
210 Winthrop Ave.
Moorestown, NJ 08057

/* If you can contribute to this comic—either as an artist or as a person with a story—send an SASE to Donna for the full guidelines. */

★★★★★

FF continues to be a splendid read. Not sure I like the slightly larger size of type. Somehow I feel reading an issue ought to destroy one's eyesight.

Frank Key

★★★★★

Today I read your statements concerning Mr. Platt and my information & book discounts:

Your statements are totally false & slanderous. I never *intentionally* set the information after the deadline, and to claim I did reveals a scheme on the part of Mr. Platt & yourself.

I have spent hundreds of dollars on advertising in **FF5**. It is preposterous to say I would wreck all that for five dollars I already received.

Come on, Mr. Gunderloy & Mr. Platt. Both of you concocted this "fraud accusation" to discredit our brotherhood (the International Patriarchy).

Our ads have helped spread knowledge of "The Patriarchy" worldwide.

You want our ad money, Gunderloy, but you hate us.

So you've stooped to slander.

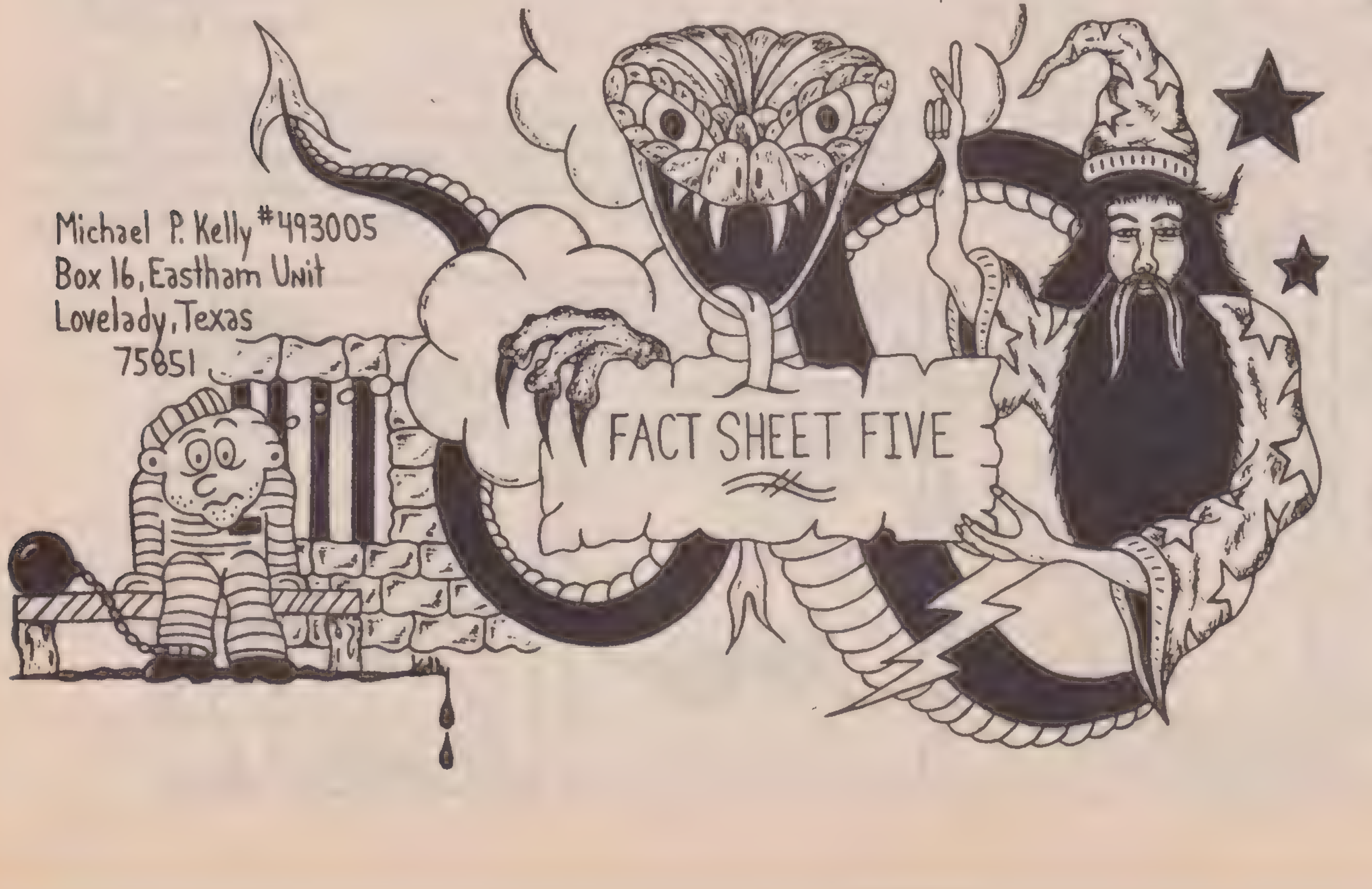
Mr. Gunderloy: I never tried to commit fraud against this Charles Platt.

Stop the slander or I will initiate legal action against *you* in a court of law.

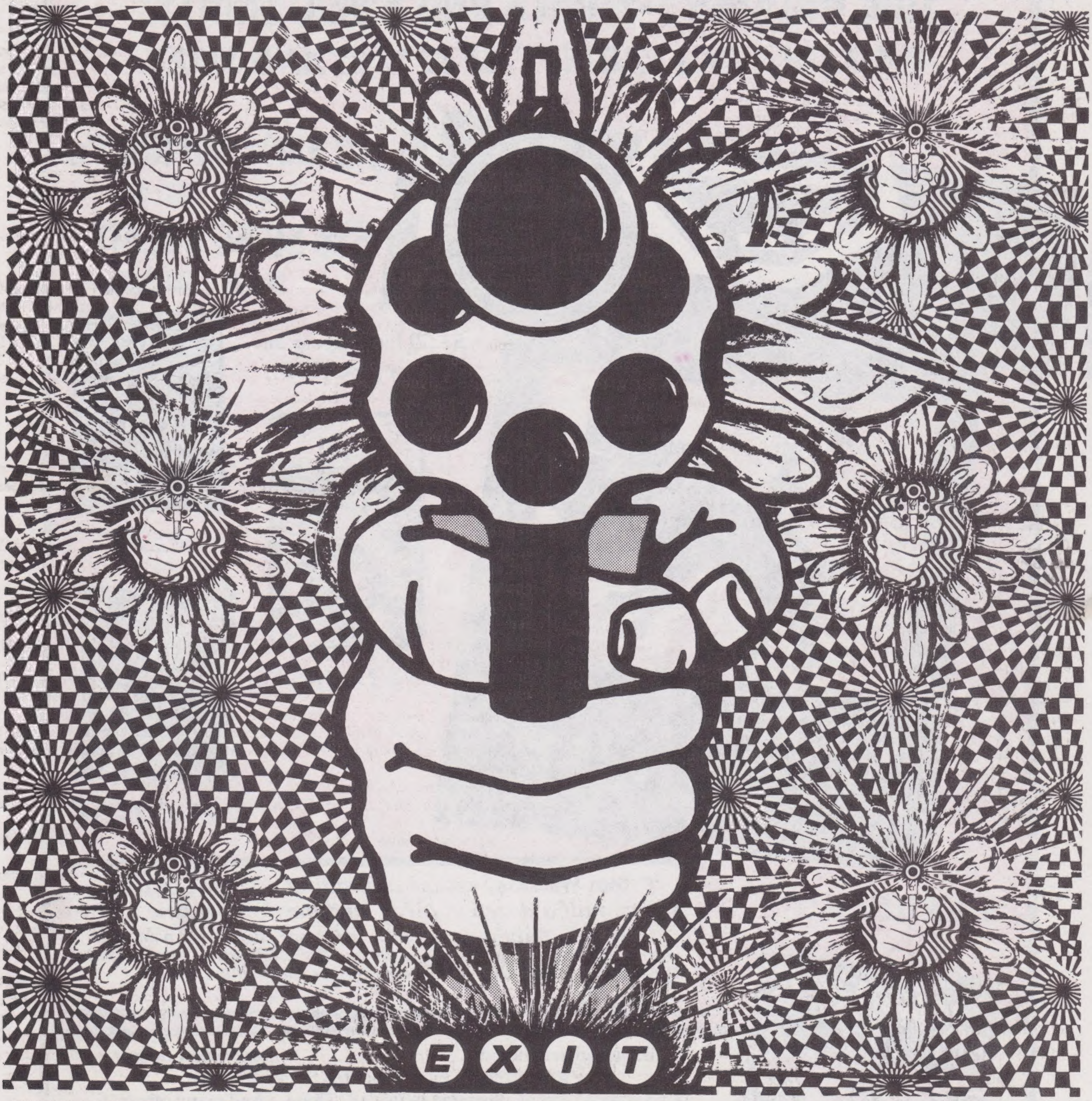
P.S. If you think I'm bluffing, sir, I urge you to continue making those statements of yours.

Arne Saknussemm
The Almasi Scholars

/* I think this letter speaks for itself. Somehow I don't think the International Patriarchy needs any help to find its brotherhood discredited. */



DIDN'T I CRY WHEN YOU SAID GOODBYE?



EXIT MAGAZINE - TOMORROW'S (WORDS & PICTURES) TODAY NUMBER FOUR ISSN: 0883-9158 MICHAEL ANDROS, ROXANNE BLOOD, JOE COLEMAN, ALEX GREY, NANCY KEATING, R. KERN, DARIN LIN, LYDIA LUNCH, ROBERT LUTHER 267, CARLO McCORMICK, MARK MOTHERSBAUGH, ADAM PARFREY, DAVID PAUL, GEORGE PETROS, RAYMOND PETTIBON, HENRY ROLLINS, K. SELTZER, J. G. THIRLWELL, ROBERT R. VOTTA, ROBERT WILLIAMS, NICK ZEDD, a gallery of America's most threatening political graphics, a comprehensive new formulary of poisons and explosives, the sixty-seventh book of the bible, the final sermon of the reverend Jim Jones, real human monsters that almost lived, rock star killers, past and future histories of robotics and artificial intelligence, eugenics, teratology, metempsychosis, submissions, neo-helter skelter, nazi peace initiative ... plus much more! Adults only. 11x14, 96 pages, no advertising. Send ten dollars plus one dollar for postage to: George Petros, P.O. Box 1405, New York City 10011

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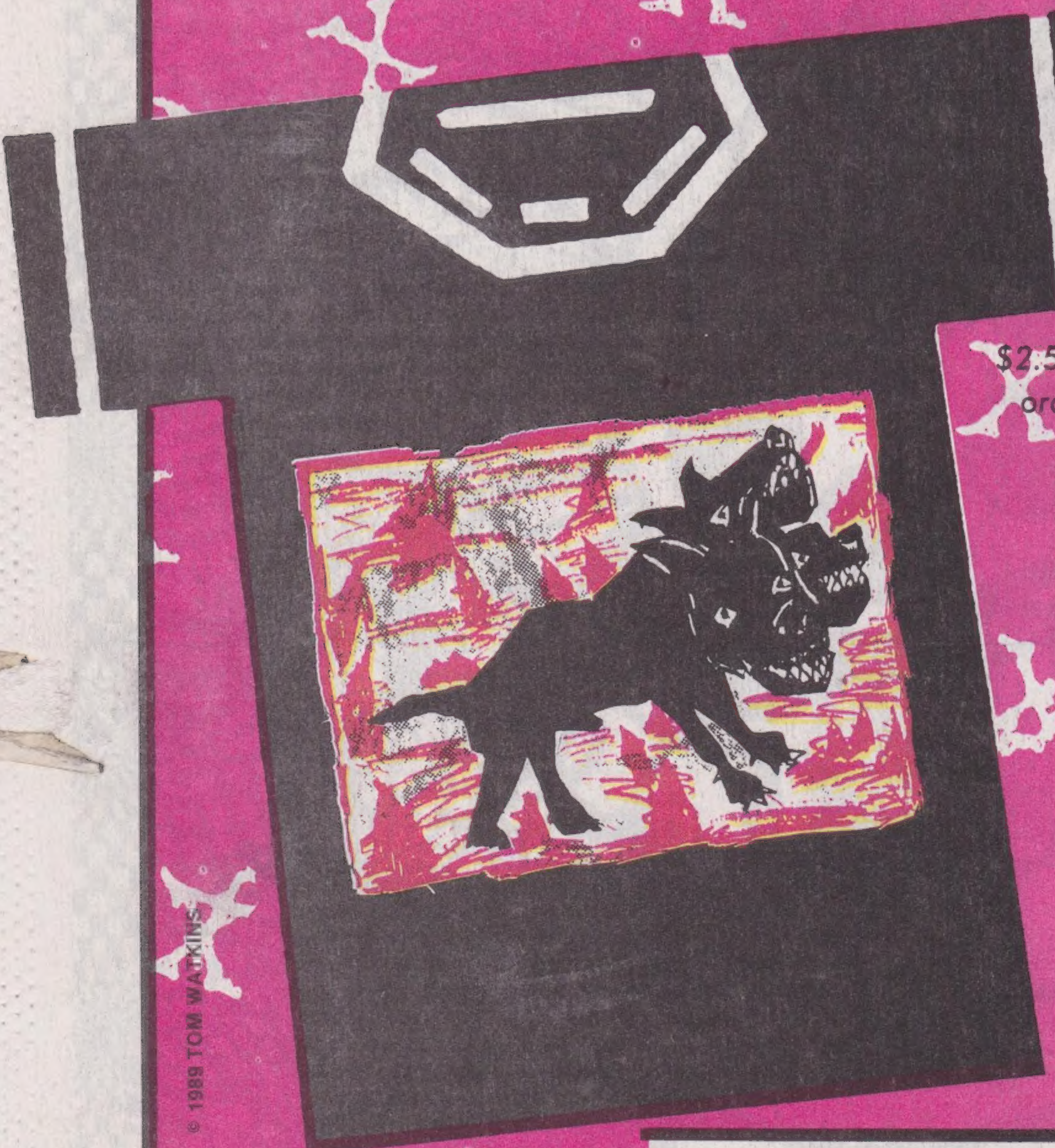

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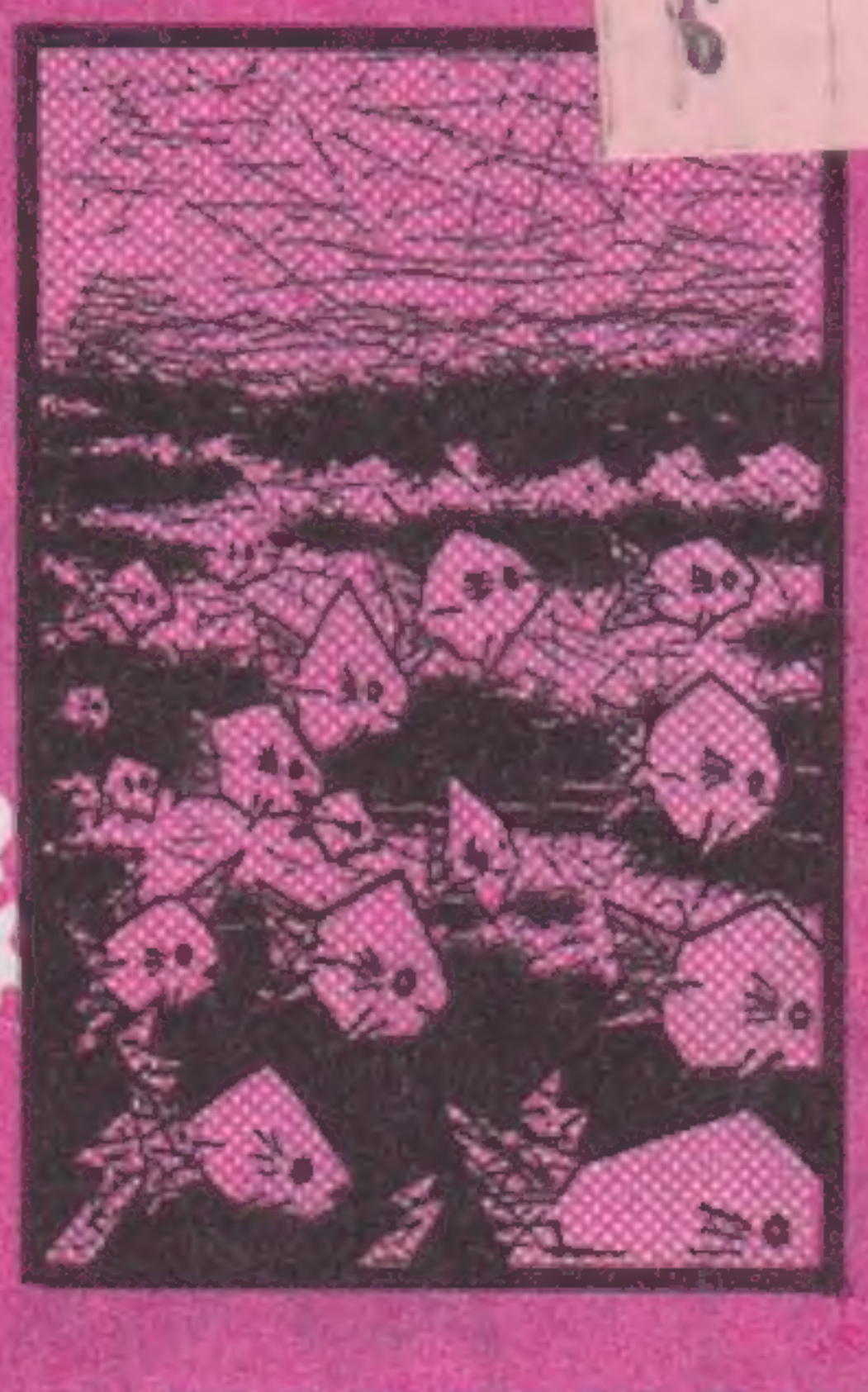

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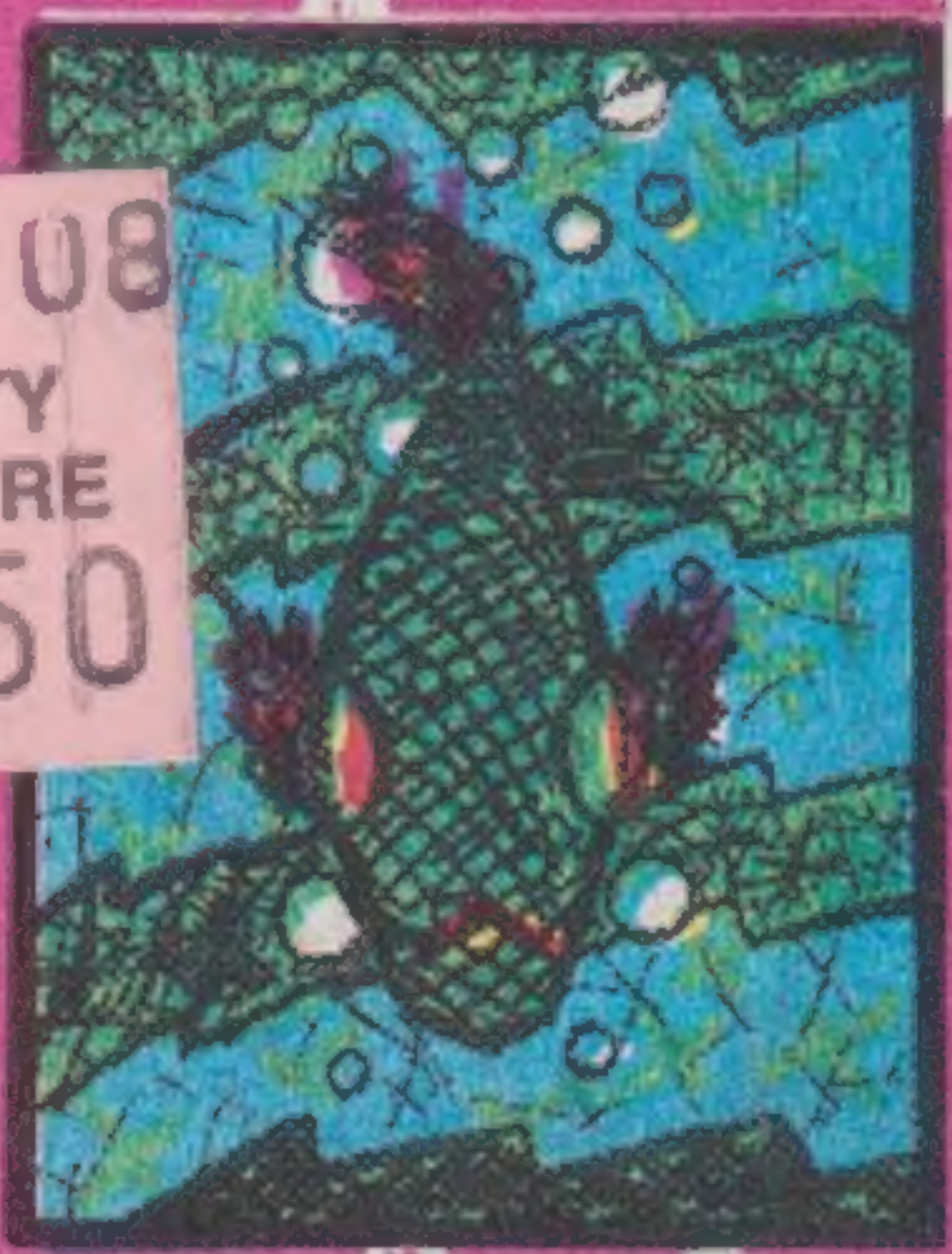

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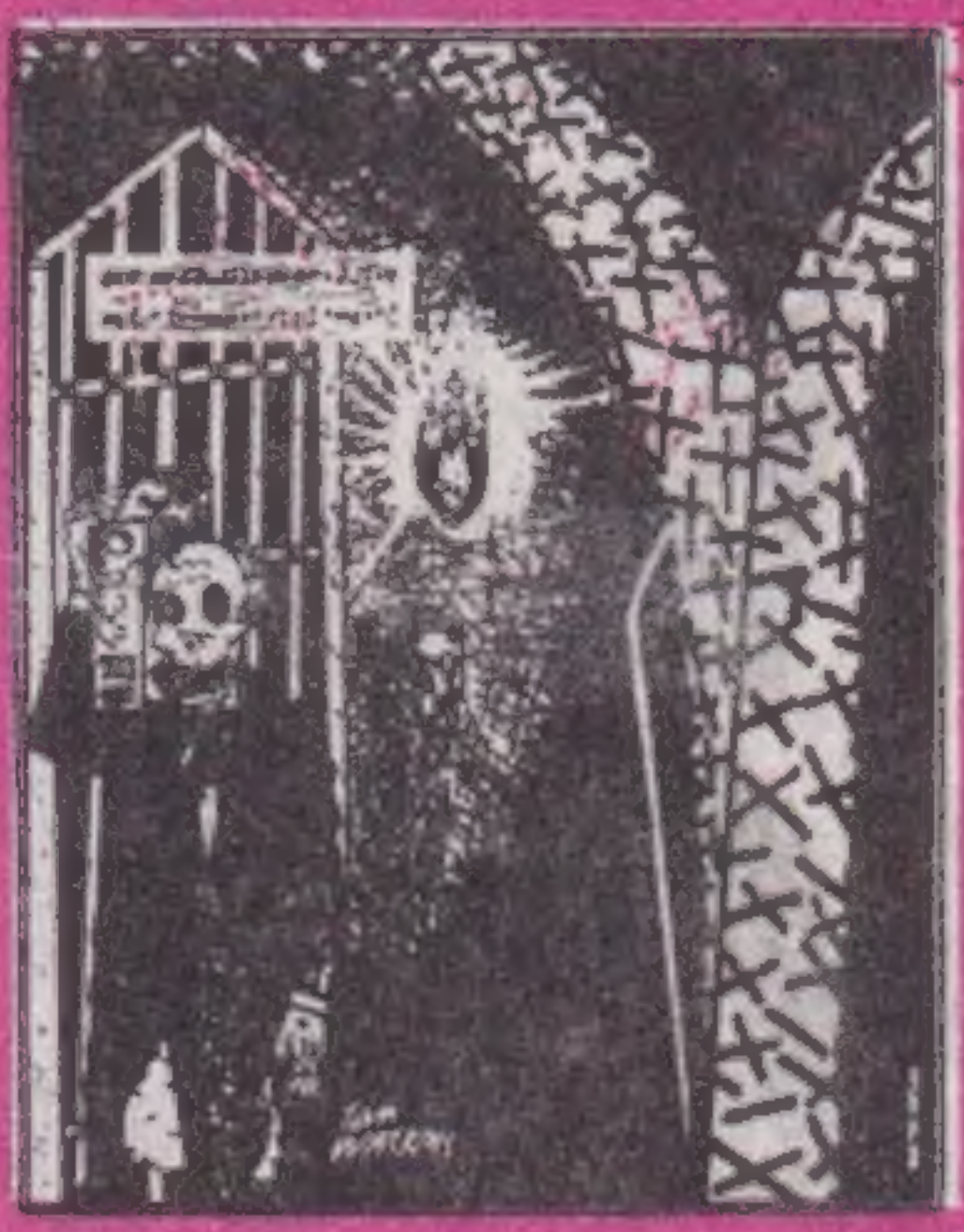

"PHANTOM"

> " **Tom Watkins** *sent me a beautiful selection of arty shirts, half a dozen in all — and they're fantastic ..."*
>
> *"For $20 he'll sell you a full-color, soft-toned, signed and numbered shirt — the two he sent me are an angular "Waitresses from Outer Space" and a high-tech chrome-and-leather look "Blind Date ..."*
>
> **Mike Gunderloy, *FACTSHEET FIVE* No. 31**

TOM WATKINS
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The signed/numbered **Limited Edition T's** in the review quote
are still available, as are Limited Series versions
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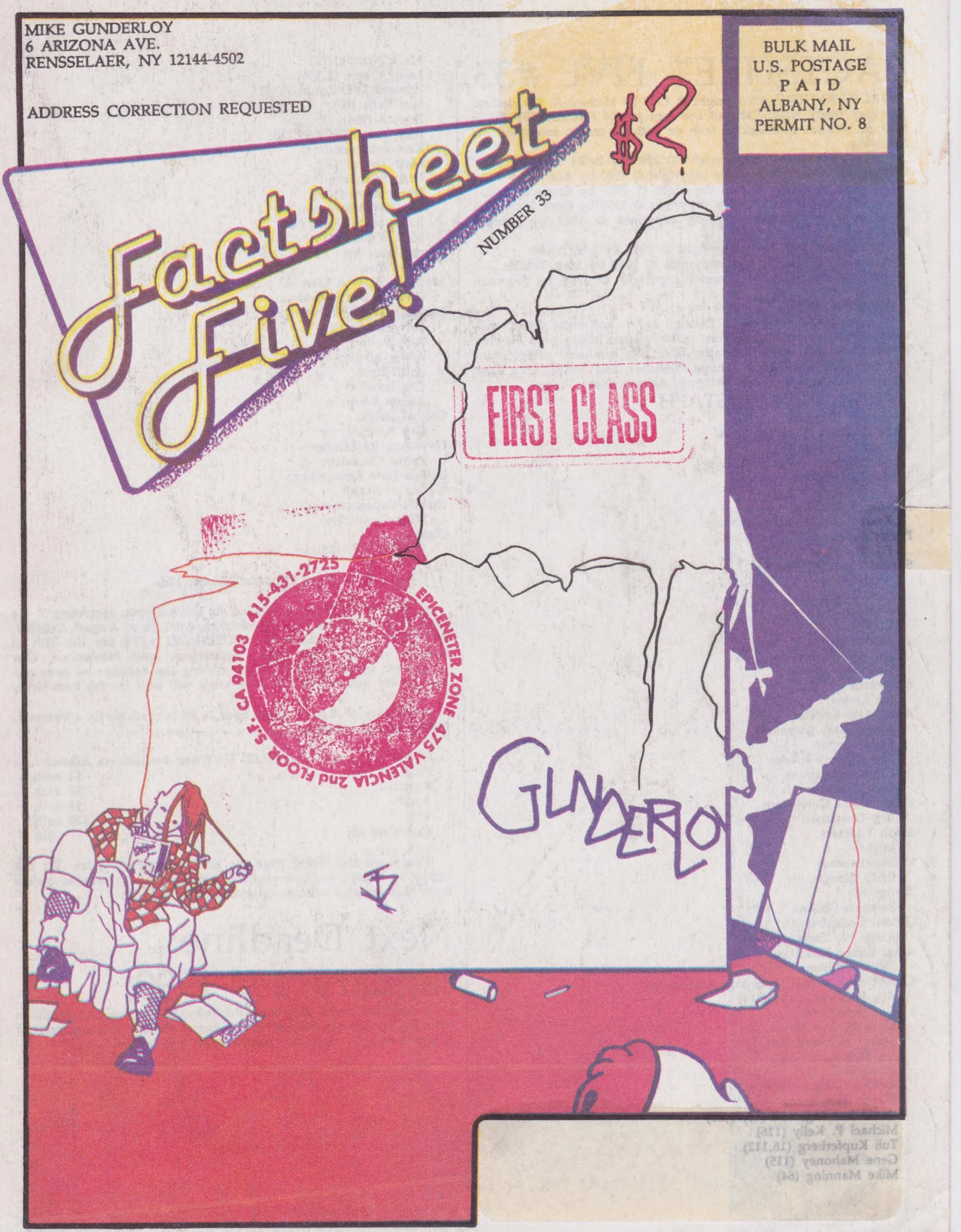
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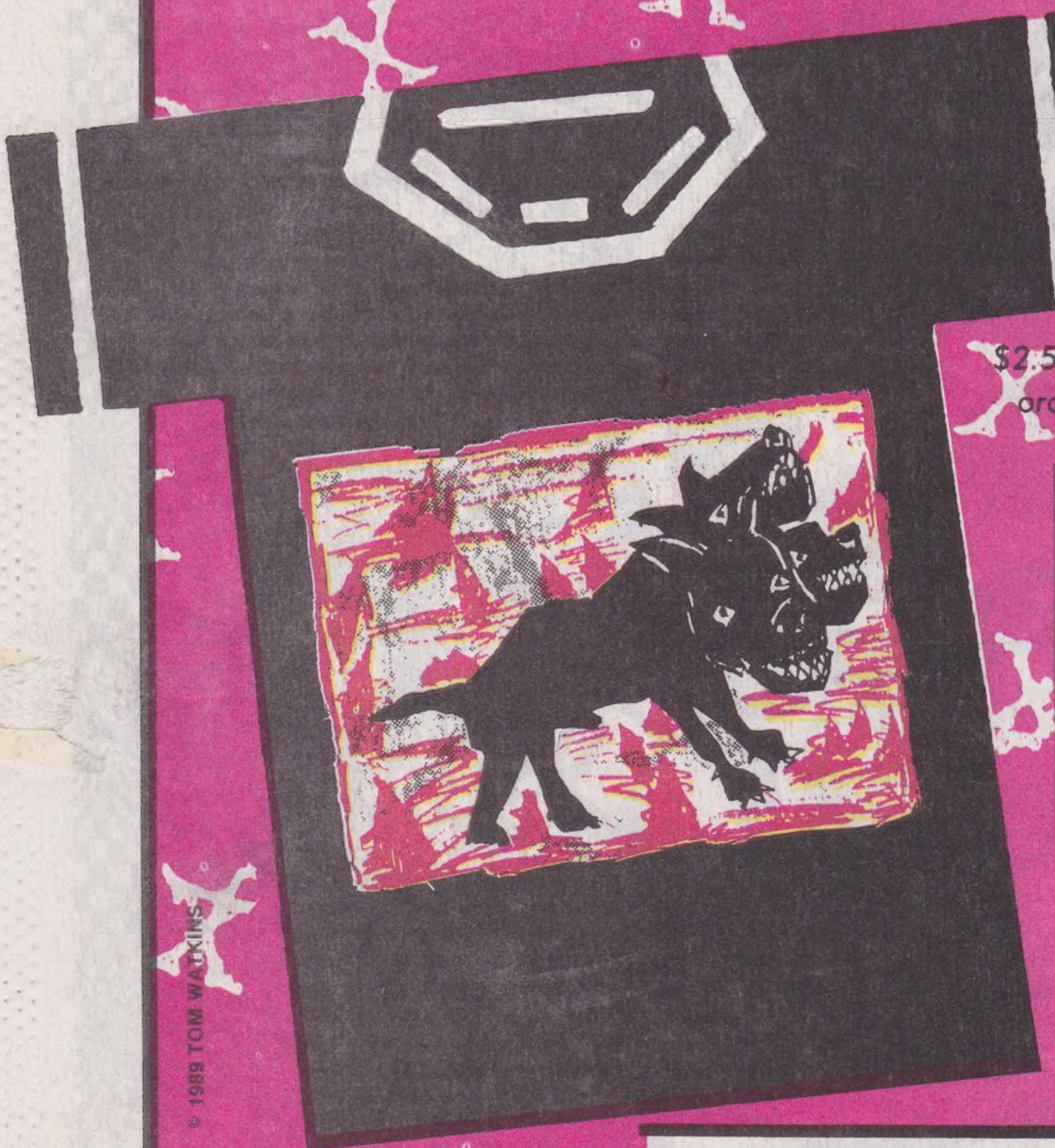

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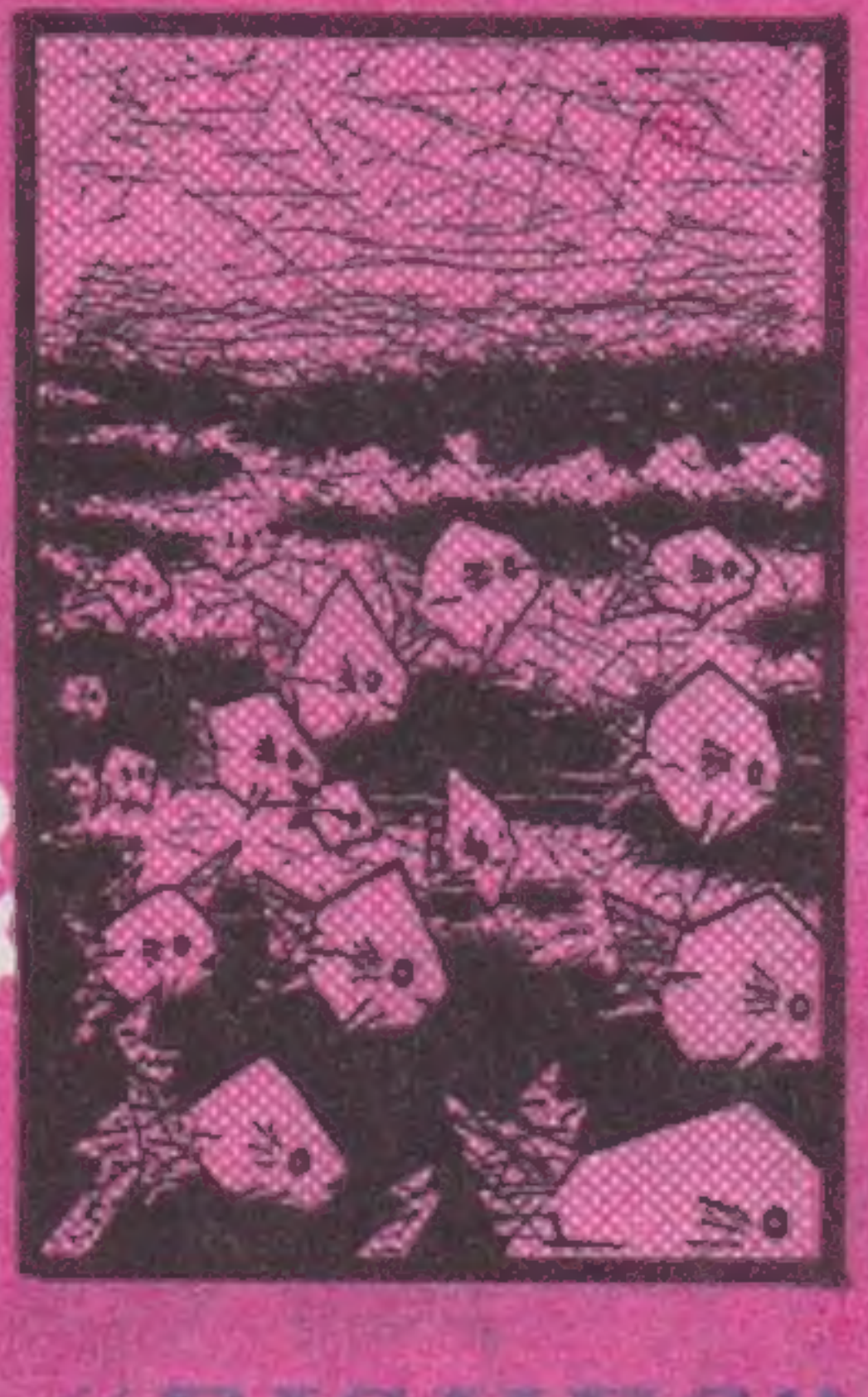

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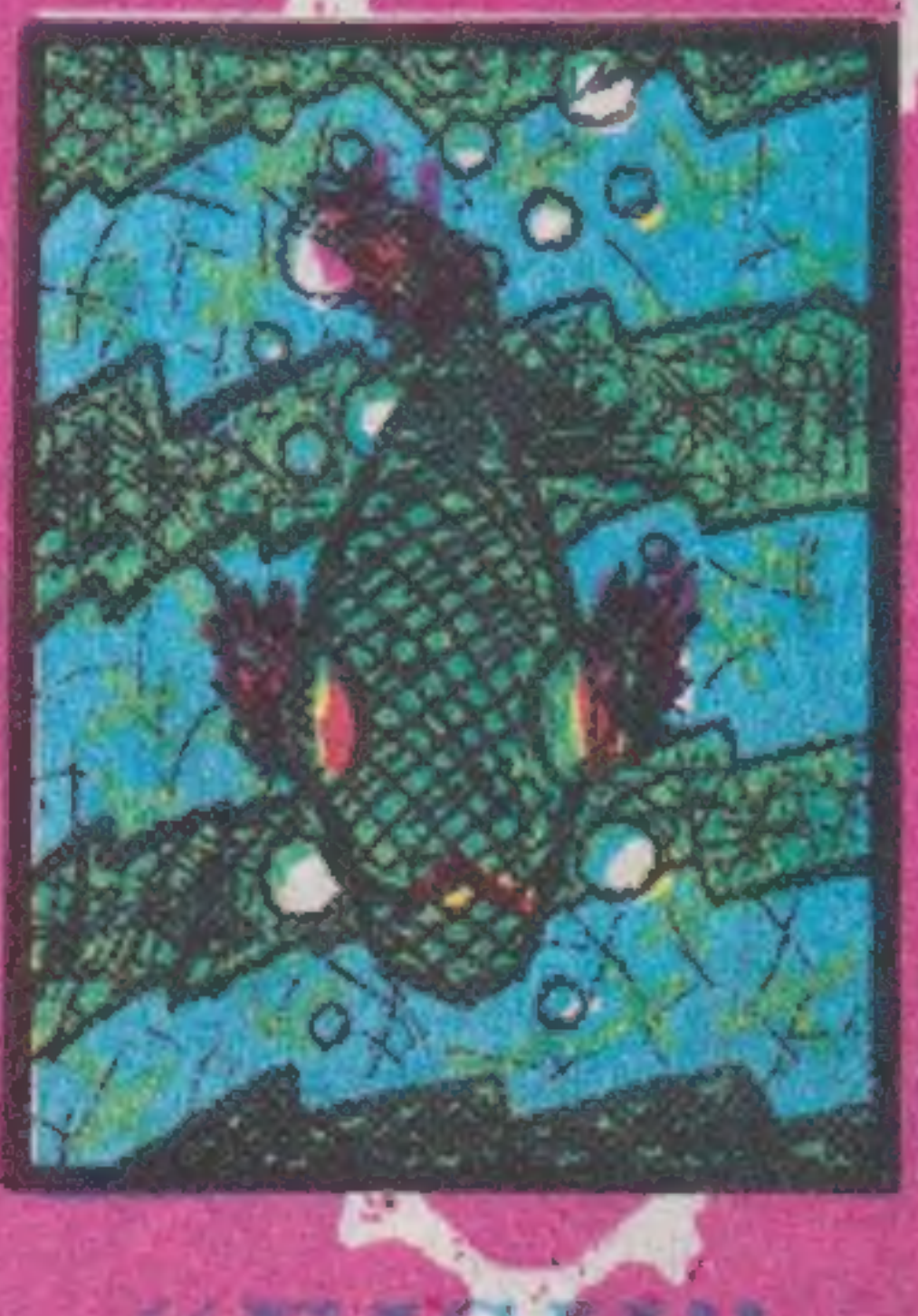

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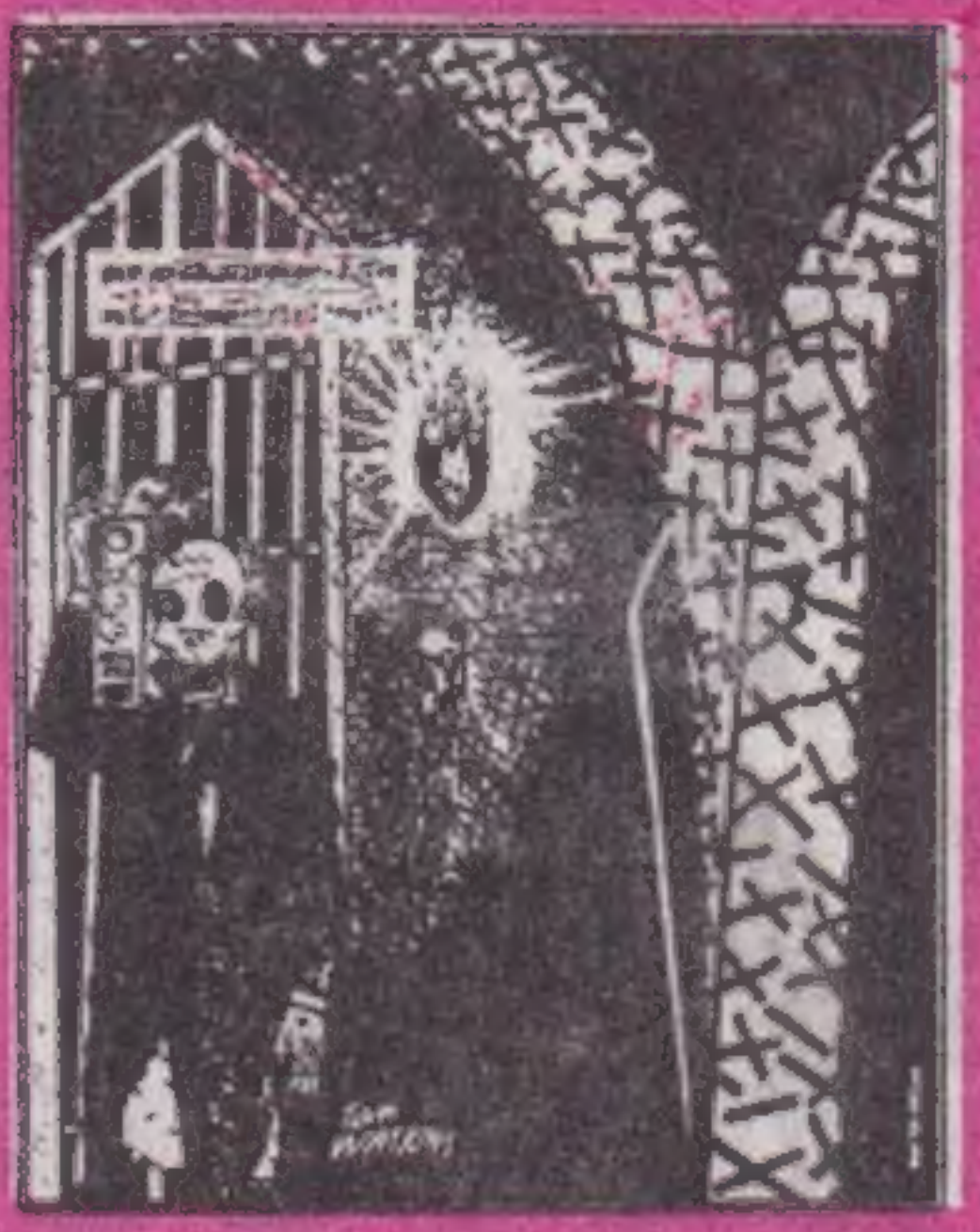

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